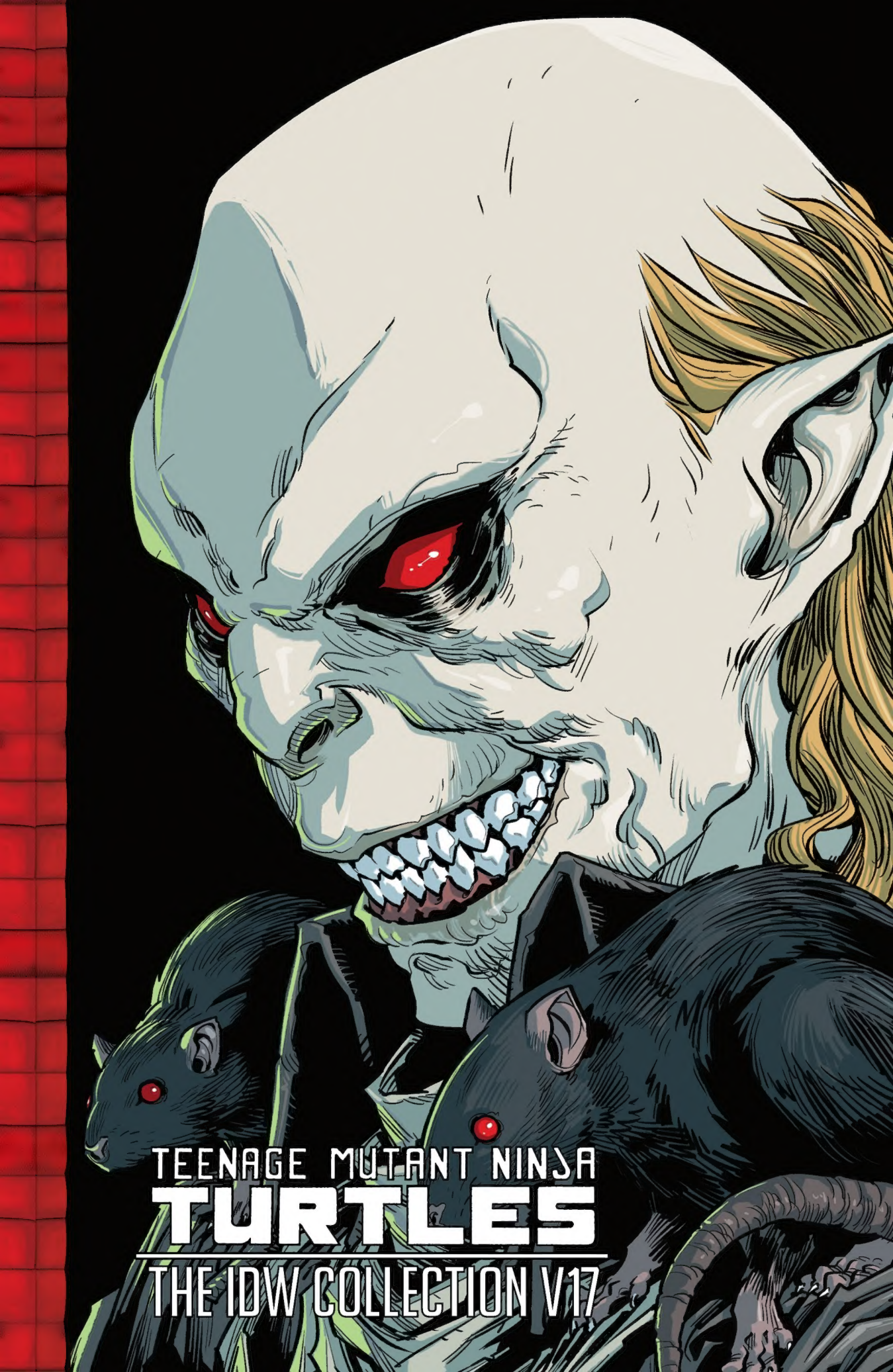
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES
THE IDW COLLECTION V17

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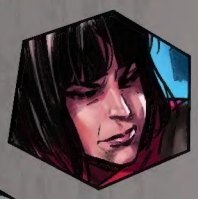

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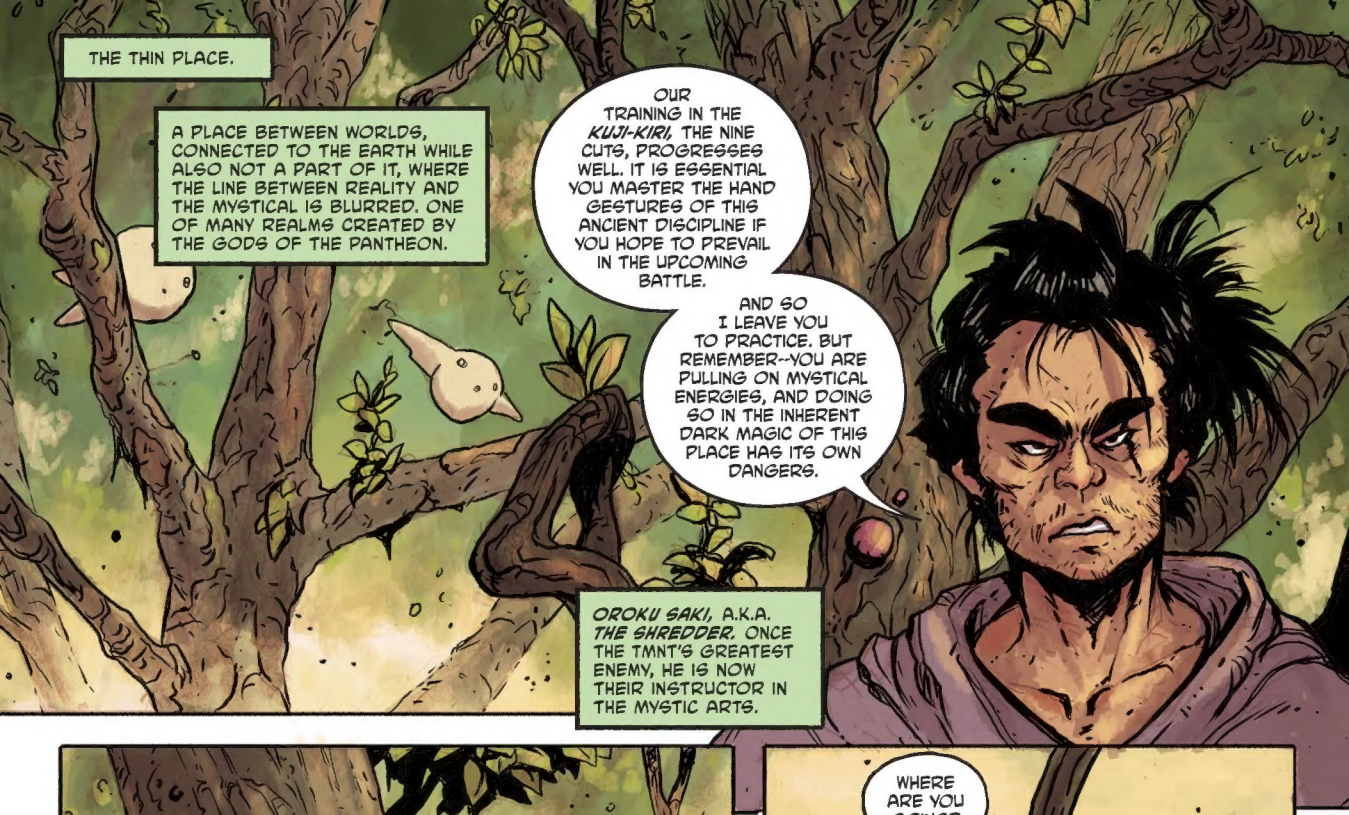
"TEEN SPIRIT"

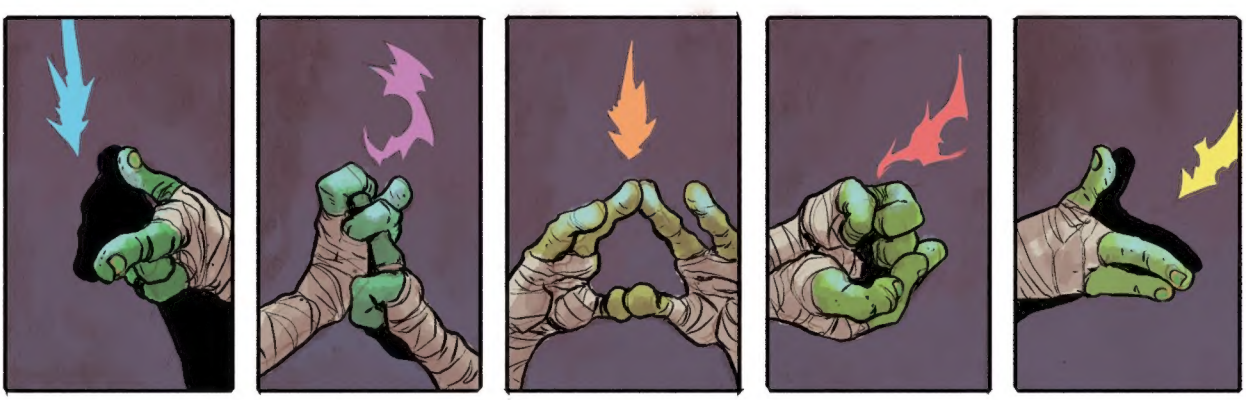

THE THIN PLACE.
A PLACE BETWEEN WORLDS, CONNECTED TO THE EARTH WHILE ALSO NOT A PART OF IT, WHERE THE LINE BETWEEN REALITY AND THE MYSTICAL IS BLURRED. ONE OF MANY REALMS CREATED BY THE GODS OF THE PANTHEON.
OUR TRAINING IN THE *KUJI-KIRI*, THE NINE CUTS, PROGRESSES WELL. IT IS ESSENTIAL YOU MASTER THE HAND GESTURES OF THIS ANCIENT DISCIPLINE IF YOU HOPE TO PREVAIL IN THE UPCOMING BATTLE.
AND SO I LEAVE YOU TO PRACTICE. BUT REMEMBER--YOU ARE PULLING ON MYSTICAL ENERGIES, AND DOING SO IN THE INHERENT DARK MAGIC OF THIS PLACE HAS ITS OWN DANGERS.
OROKU SAKI, A.K.A. *THE SHREDDER*. ONCE THE TMNT'S GREATEST ENEMY, HE IS NOW THEIR INSTRUCTOR IN THE MYSTIC ARTS.

BE MINDFUL. *YOU ARE NOT ALONE HERE.*

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I HAVE MUCH TO MEDITATE ON.

LET HIM GO, LEO. WE GOT THIS.

I *BET* A TWICE-RESURRECTED FORMER-WARLORD-TURNED-GOOD-GUY HAS A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.



WHOOPS!
SORRY, DUDES!
UH, DON, YOU OKAY IN THERE?
I'M FINE, MIKEY.
BOO!
SERIOUSLY?
AW, COME ON. LOOSEN UP!

CRACK
RIN. THE CUT FOR STRENGTH!
ROK
OH, THAT IS IT!
I'M GONNA "RIN" YOUR NECK!
TO! HARMONY! HARMONY!

GAH!
RAPH, MIKEY, NO!
OH NO.
FOOLISH CHILDREN!

DID SOMETHING HIT ME?
GUYS, I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.
AL...?
IT'S NOT ME! IT'S NOT ME!
THAT WAS LOW.
WHAT? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

LEO, LOOK!
SPIRITS!
IT'S US! WE'RE HURTING OURSELVES AND PROVOKING THE DARK SPIRITS OF THIS PLACE BY ABUSING THE KUJI-KIRI!
PYO, SECOND CUT?... WAIT, WHICH ONE'S THAT AGAIN?
WHO CARES? WE NEED TO FIGHT THESE MONSTERS! BACK TO RIN! STRENGTH!
NO! WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM WITH MAGIC. IT'S OUR FIGHT THAT CALLED THEM.
LEO'S RIGHT! WE HAVE TO CALL BACK THE MYSTIC ENERGY WE RELEASED! FOCUS. EVOKE AND REVOKE. REVOKE!
REVOKE.
REVOKE.
REVOKE.
REVOKE.

UH GUYS... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT ALL THIS? SAKI REALLY IS GOING TO KILL US.
KAI? WITH EVERYONE?
NO, NOT QUITE. WITH EVERYONE...
"...BUT WE'LL FIX IT THE OLD FASHIONED WAY."

SO...HOW DID YOUR PRACTICE GO?
FINE, SAK-- SENSEI.
GREAT.
SO WELL!
NO EVIL SPIRITS WHATSOEVER!
SSH!
REALLY? I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT.
HEH...
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
EVEN SO, I THINK I'LL STICK CLOSER FOR A WHILE.

art by MICHAEL DIRLYNAS

art by Vincenzo Federici
colors by Matt Herms

THE ARMAGEDDON GAME #1

PROLOGUE.
THE THIN PLACES.
WELL, THIS IS A FAIRY TALE SCENE IF EVER I'VE SEEN ONE...
...MY LOVELY SISTERS IN SUCH PEACEFUL REPOSE.
HELLO,
RAT KING.

I HAD A FEELING WE'D BE SEEING YOU SOON.
ONE OF YOU, AT LEAST. OUR BABY SISTER SEEMS FAR FROM SEEING ANYTHING AT THE MOMENT.
POOR THING MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM HER RECENT COSMIC EXCURSION WITH THAT NINJA BEAU OF HERS.
ESPECIALLY COMING SO CLOSELY UPON THE HEELS OF THE DRAGON DEBACLE.*
OR SHOULD I SAY SCALES?

*See TMNT: City at War and TMNT: The Armageddon Game—Opening Moves--C.B.

SO...YOU KNOW ABOUT KITSUNE AND SAKI. HAVE YOU COME TO GLOAT?
ON THE CONTRARY, GOOD AKA. IT IS THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION THAT DRIVES ME.

I AM SIMPLY HERE TO WISH YOU BOTH GOOD LUCK IN THE GAME TO COME.
HM. AND WILL LUCK BE ENOUGH?
SEEMS YOU ALREADY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IF YOU'VE BEEN SPYING ON OUR LITTLE SISTER.

OH... NO. NO. NOTHING LIKE THAT. I ONLY KNOW SHE IS PLAYING--AS ARE YOU--AND THAT OPENING MOVES HAVE BEEN MADE.
TO KNOW ANYTHING MORE WOULD BE CHEATING, AND AS YOU WELL KNOW, I MAY BE CHAOTIC, BUT I'M NO CHEATER.
AFTER ALL, WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?

"...LET THE GAME TRULY BEGIN."
THE TMNT CHURCH LAIR.
NOW.
AND SO IT HAS COME TO THIS...
...EACH OF US GATHERED ON NEUTRAL GROUND.
THE SPLINTER CLAN.
THE FOOT CLAN

UNITED FOR A SINGLE PURPOSE.

THIS IS HARDLY WHAT I'D DESCRIBE AS NEUTRAL GROUND... OROKU SAKI.
PERHAPS BEFORE IT WAS NOT, KARAI. CONSIDER THIS AN ACT OF FAITH BY THE SPLINTER CLAN IN ALLOWING YOU ACCESS TO THEIR HOME LAIR.
AND AS THE APOCALYPSE IS UPON US, IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE AT STOPPING IT, WE MUST ACT NOW.
AND TOGETHER.
APOCALYPSE?
IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING WE ARE HERE TO DISCUSS SOME SORT OF... GAME?
IT'S A GAME ALL RIGHT, JUST NOT THE FUN KIND.
LOOK, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A LOT OF QUESTIONS RIGHT NOW, KARAI.
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT THE RAT KING'S JOINED UP WITH KRANG, STOCKMAN, AND NULL, AND THEY'VE KICKED OFF SOMETHING THEY'RE CALLING "THE ARMAGEDDON GAME."*
YES...
*See TMNT: The Armageddon Game—Pre-Game--C.B.
...AND WE BELIEVE THE RAT KING IS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE PANTHEON ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THIS NEW GAME.
YEAH. BUT BEYOND THAT, WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF SOLID INTEL OTHER THAN NEW YORK CITY'S JUST THE START.
THE RAT KING AND THE OTHERS HAVE THEIR SIGHTS SET ON TAKING OVER THE WORLD.

BAXTER STOCKMAN, GENERAL KRANG, AND MADAME NULL ARE FORMIDABLE OPPONENTS IN THEIR *OWN* RIGHTS.
IF THEY'VE JOINED FORCES UNDER THE RAT KING'S BANNER AS YOU SAY, HOW DO YOU *PROPOSE* WE COUNTER?

WE STOP THEM THE *ONLY* WAY WE CAN: WE PLAY THE RAT KING'S GAME.
WE FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE. WE *TURN* THE TABLES ON HIM AND HIS TEAM.
CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS, IT'S *HOW* WE BEAT OL' RAT FACE LAST TIME.*
*See TMNT: Kingdom of Rats--C.B.

I HAVE RECENTLY ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS WHO POSED *GRAVE DANGER* TO THE RAT KING'S PAWNS IN THE PAST AND WHO MAY DO SO *AGAIN* IF WE ARE ABLE TO FIND THEM AND BRING THEM TO OUR SIDE.
SOME ARE LOCATED *OUTSIDE* THE CONFINES OF THIS PLANET, AND ANOTHER IS *HERE,* THOUGH HIS CURRENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.
IT IS OUR MISSION TO *SEEK OUT* THESE INDIVIDUALS IN THE HOPES OF, AS LEONARDO SO APTLY DESCRIBED, FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE.

"OUR" MISSION?
HE MEANS US TURTLES, KARAI. IT'S *WHAT* WE WERE TRAINING FOR IN *NORTHAMPTON.**
AND IT'S WHY WE'RE IN THE *LAIR* RIGHT NOW.
*See TMNT #131-132--C.B.

I KNOW THE COORDINATES OF THIS PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND SO IT MADE THE MOST SENSE TO BE TELEPORTED TO DIMENSION X FROM HERE.
YOU ARE LEAVING?
ONLY LEO AND MIKEY...
...AND YOUR GRANDFATHER.
THE REST OF YOU WILL MAINTAIN SECURITY WHILE WE ARE AWAY.
YOUR FOCUS WILL BE THE CITY, KARAI, WHILE THE OTHERS WILL OVERSEE MUTANT TOWN.
WHICH LEADS ME TO THE MOST OBVIOUS QUESTION OF ALL. HOW IS IT YOU CAME UPON THIS KNOWLEDGE?
DESPITE YOUR CLAIM TO THE CONTRARY, I SENSE KITSUNE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THIS.
IT MATTERS NOT, AT THIS POINT, HOW I KNOW WHAT I KNOW.
AND KITSUNE IS CURRENTLY... INDISPOSED.
I TRUST YOU THREE WILL SHARE THE FULL MISSION PARAMETERS WITH KARAI AND THE OTHERS AFTER WE HAVE DEPARTED.
IT IS IMPERATIVE YOU ALL WORK TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN THE HOME FRONT UNTIL WE RETURN.
YEAH. WE GOT THIS.
AND REMEMBER, THE ARCANE FORMS I TAUGHT YOU IN NORTHAMPTON ARE INHERENTLY DANGEROUS.
GO EASY WITH THE KUJI-KIRI. COPY THAT.
VERY WELL.
THEN THE TIME HAS COME.

PLANET NEUTRINO, THIS IS DONATELLO OF EARTH.
YOU ARE A GO TO INITIATE TELEPORTATION FROM THE COORDINATES PROVIDED.
ROGER THAT! TELEPORTATION ENGAGED.
BYE, EVERYBODY.
FOOM
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THAT.
I'M GONNA FINISH SETTING UP THIS REDUNDANT COMM ARRAY, THEN START REACHING OUT TO APRIL AND THE OTHERS. YOU GUYS GOOD TO GO?
ALWAYS.
I'M GOOD.
DITTO.
"THIS IS GETTING KINDA AWKWARD..."

...I MEAN, THERE'S HOW MANY OF US AND JUST ONE OF HIM!
TWO, ZODI. THERE'S TWO.
YEAH? WELL, ONE OF THEM IS KILLING US, KRISA...
"...AND THE OTHER ONE'S A USELESS WHINER."
GRAW!!
HRGGK...
STOP FIGHTING, YOU SCALE-BRAINED FOOL!
THESE SOLDIERS ARE HERE TO HELP US!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE BOSS SAYS WE'VE GOTTA BRING BOTH IN FOR THE NEXT PHASE, SO--
LOOK OUT!
FWAMM
YOU READY?
ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH?
STORY OF OUR MUTANT LIVES, MY FRIEND.
IDIOTS!
HUPP!
WHUMP
IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL A RESCUE?!

WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A RESCUE, DIMWIT.
MISSION CALLED FOR--MMF-- RETRIEVAL!
NNNRG!
DOES THIS STUPID BEAST LOOK LIKE HE WANTS TO BE RETRIEVED?!
WHOA!
GRAB
GOT YOU!
GYAHH!
THE DAMNED THING HAS A DINOSAUR-SIZED DEATH WISH!
HE'S BEEN TRYING TO KILL THE BOTH OF US FOR MONTHS!
SWIISH
HE WON'T STOP UNTIL ALL OF YOU OR THE BOTH OF US ARE DEAD!

ZZZT
AAAGH!
NOW, KRISA!
ON IT!
RRARR!
HOLD STILL YOU... STUBBORN THING!
YES! THAT'S IT!
YOU HAVE HIM NOW!
NOT... NOT FOR LONG. HE'S TOO... STRONG.
ZODI?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, MA'AM? IF THAT THING GETS LOOSE AGAIN--
I KNOW, I KNOW... I'M THINKING.
PLEASE THINK FASTER. CAN'T... HOLD ON.

YOU'RE A SCORPION! STING THE BLASTED CREATURE!
BUT THE AMOUNT OF VENOM THAT'D TAKE COULD KILL YOU, TOO!
ZOD!... HURRY...
WE'RE ALL DEAD IF YOU KEEP STANDING THERE LIKE AN IMBECILE!
FINE.
SHNK
RAAGH!
FWUD
YOU OKAY, KRISA?
I... YES, I THINK SO.
AND THE TARGETS?
BOTH ALIVE AND BREATHING, MA'AM. BUT BARELY.
BARELY'S GOOD ENOUGH.
GRAB A LITTER AND GET THOSE THINGS ON THE CHOPPER ASAP...

"...THERE'S SOMEPLACE WE NEED TO BE."
THE PLANET NEUTRINO OF DIMENSION X.
SMADA CITY. THE ROYAL PALACE.
YOU'RE HERE..."
...IT FEELS LIKE FOREVER SINCE WE SAW YOU, MIKEY.*
TELL ME ABOUT IT, TRISH. YOU GUYS GOT SO BIG!
WELL, THAT'S NO SURPRISE. THEY'VE ALL BEEN WELL-FED, WELL-LOVED, AND WELCOME SINCE THEY ARRIVED.
THE MAIN REASON HAROLD AND I HAVE STAYED THIS LONG WAS TO MAKE SURE THESE KIDS WERE OKAY. TURNS OUT THERE WAS NEVER ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO MAKE SURE THEY ALL FINALLY HAVE REAL HOMES HERE.
*See TMNT #100--C.B.
YOU WERE RIGHT, MIKEY. PRINCESS TRIB IS SO COOL!
TOLD YOU, TOMMY!
SPEAKING OF WELCOMES...
"...LOOKS LIKE COMMANDER DASK DIDN'T EXACTLY ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR YOUR NEW FRIEND."
YEAH.
I MEAN, I TOTALLY GET EVERYONE WANTING TO BE CAREFUL AND STUFF, LIBBY, BUT EVER SINCE SHREDDER CAME BACK TO LIFE...

"...HE'S REALLY NOT SO *MEAN* AND *CRAZY* ANYMORE."
HAVE YOU BLASTED TURTLES GONE *INSANE?*
I HOPE DONATELLO AT LEAST WOULD HAVE ENOUGH BRAIN CELLS TO REFUSE A *TEAM-UP* WITH THAT SPIKE-COVERED SOCIOPATH.
DONNIE'S ON BOARD, TOO, HAROLD. WORKING WITH OROKU SAKI IS OUR *BEST PATH* FORWARD.
THEN *HE'S* LOST HIS DAMN MIND, TOO. LET'S HOPE THE KING SEES THROUGH THIS STUPIDITY.
WE SHOULD NOT RUSH TO JUDGMENT, HAROLD.
DON'T BE SO OBTRUSE, HONEYCUTT. HAVE YOU *FORGOTTEN* THEIR TRACK RECORD FOR TROUBLE?
BE THAT AS IT MAY, THEY HAVE MORE THAN EARNED THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.
MEH.
FAVORED GUESTS, IT IS MY HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THE *ARRIVAL* OF THEIR ROYAL MAJESTIES...
...KING ZENTER, QUEEN GIZZLA, AND *PRINCESS TRIB!*
GREETINGS, *GLORIOUS HEROES OF THE KRANG WAR.*
WE ARE *PLEASED* TO HAVE YOU GRACE OUR PALACE ONCE AGAIN, FRIENDS.
YES. WE ARE.
WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE *PAINFUL* TO INFORM YOU...
...THAT WE ARE *UNABLE* TO HONOR YOUR REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN SAVING YOUR PLANET.

EARTH PROTECTION FORCE (E.P.F.) COMMAND FACILITY.
NEW YORK CITY.
"AH, THERE'S MY QUEEN..."
...IT'S A TRUE PLEASURE TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN, MADAME NULL.
RAT KING.
AND MY ROOK?

FWUP FWUPFWUP
NULL
"RIGHT ON TIME..."
...SUCH EXEMPLARY TEAMWORK!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
WHERE TO, MA'AM?
INSIDE THE DOME, ZODI.
YES, YES! QUICKLY!
MUSTN'T KEEP THE GOOD DOCTOR WAITING ANY LONGER.
HE'S SO ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE HIS WELL-EARNED PRIZE.
ON THE SUBJECT OF DOCTORS, HOW GOES THINGS WITH STOCKMAN?
MY KNIGHT?
WELL, HE'S MADE CERTAIN WE HAVE FULL USE OF THIS FACILITY WITHOUT E.P.F. INTRUSION. AND HE'S SET TO PLAY HIS PART IN TONIGHT'S LATER FESTIVITIES, DON'T YOU WORRY.
AND NOW YOU AND I HAVE OUR OWN PROMISES TO KEEP ON THE INSIDE.
AFTER YOU, MY LADY.
"IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?!"

FIRST YOU SITUATE ME IN THESE UNSATISFACTORY WORKING CONDITIONS...
...AND NOW YOU HAND ME THE SPECIMEN I REQUESTED IN SUCH A SORRY STATE? AND AFTER I SUCCESSFULLY FULFILLED MY PART OF THE BARGAIN BY DELIVERING THE MUTANT TURTLE DNA NO LESS!*
I MAY NOT BE A BIG-TIME CORPORATE CEO, BUT I RECOGNIZE BAD BUSINESS WHEN I SEE IT.
OH, CHILL OUT, BARLOW. I'VE SEEN WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR LAB IN MUTANT TOWN.
THIS JOINT'S A STEP UP FROM THAT SMOLDERING CRATER.
*See TMNT #130--C.B.
AND YOU'RE LUCKY THIS STUPID CROC'S STILL ALIVE. TOOK ME ENOUGH VENOM TO KILL THREE ELEPHANTS JUST TO SLOW HIM DOWN.
THAT'S DR. BARLOW TO YOU, MISSY.
AND YOU'RE WRONG. THIS CREATURE WAS AN ALLIGATOR BEFORE IT WAS MUTATED.
POTATO, POTAHTO...
BUT ZODI DOES BRING UP A SALIENT POINT...
...THE ENHANCED HEALING ATTRIBUTES INHERENT TO THE MUTAGENIC OOZE ARE JUST ONE MORE FACTOR THAT MAKE MUTANTS SO VALUABLE ON THE MULTIVERSAL LABOR MARKET.
THE RICHES WAITING FOR THE PERSON WHO CORNERS THAT MARKET ARE INCALCULABLE.
YES, YES!

AND THAT'S *WHY* WE'RE PLAYING, IS IT NOT? WIN THE GAME, REAP THE REWARDS.
POWER AND PROFITS ARE REWARD ENOUGH. I *WANT* THAT MARKET, RAT KING.
AND YOU SHALL *HAVE* IT, MY LADY.
AND BAXTER STOCKMAN HIS *WHITE HOUSE.*
AND GENERAL KRANG RETURNED TO HIS *UTROM THRONE.*
AND IT ALL STARTS TONIGHT. HERE.
IN THIS *GRAND METROPOLIS!*
THE GOOD DOCTOR HERE HAS GIVEN US THE RESOURCES WE NEEDED FOR MY MAYOR-KNIGHT TO COMPLETE HIS CRUCIAL *FIRST MISSION* ACROSS TOWN.
AND NOW, TO CAPITALIZE ON STOCKMAN'S IMMINENT SUCCESS, WE FULFILL *OUR* PROMISES TO BOTH HIM AND KRANG.
DR. BARLOW GETS HIS *NEW MUTANT PLAYTHING.*
AND MY ROOK GETS HIS *NEW CASTLE!*
SO GET BUSY, DOCTOR.
YOUR PRIZE AWAITS, AND YOUR OBLIGATIONS TO US WILL BE AT AN END JUST AS *SOON* AS YOU LIBERATE OUR FRIEND KRANG...

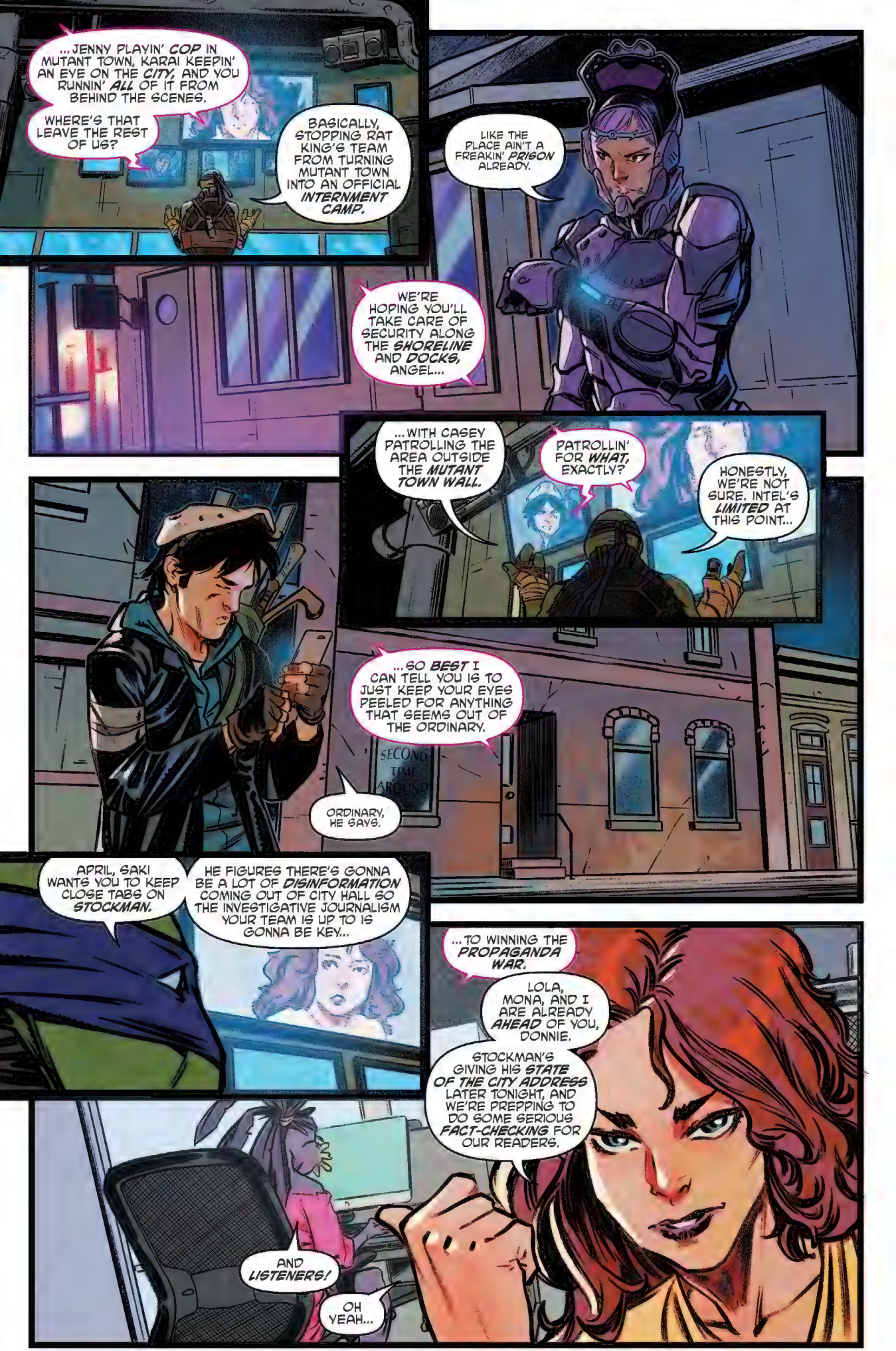
"...FROM HIS DREADED CAGE."
HERMAN THE HERMIT CRAB. SERGEANT.
SERIAL NUMBER 1011434.
MUTANT TOWN CITY HALL.
OH PLEASE! NOT THE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER GARBAGE AGAIN.
IT'S NOT EVEN A REAL SERIAL NUMBER.
NAH. IT'S JUST A STALLIN' TACTIC, AND IT'S GETTIN' OLD REAL FAST.
C'MON, CRABBY. WE KNOW YOU KNOW WHERE HOB'S HIDIN' OUT, THICK AS YOU TWO ARE.
AND LIKE I ALREADY TOLD YOU, WE AIN'T ASKIN' YOU TO RAT HIM OUT AND NOBODY'S GONNA ARREST HIM.
IT'S MY MISSION TO FIND HIM SO HE CAN HELP US AGAINST SOME BIG, BAD STUFF THAT'S COMIN'. YOU CAN APPRECIATE THAT, RIGHT, YOU BEIN' A SOLDIER AND ALL?
HERMAN THE HERMIT CRAB. SERGEANT. SERIAL NUMBER 10--
OH, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE GONE STRAIGHT TO ENHANCED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES.
NO. THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
WE'RE NOT THE DAMN FOOT CLAN, JENNY.
JUST KIDDING, SALLY. SHEESH.

LOOK, HERMAN... YOU AND I GO WAY BACK. AND DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, I *STILL* CONSIDER YOU A GOOD FRIEND.
I NEVER WANTED TO PUT YOU IN THIS CAGE. NOT YOU, NOT MAN RAY...*NONE* OF YOU. BUT DAMMIT, YOU GUYS FORCED MY HAND. DEEP DOWN, I *KNOW* YOU KNOW THAT'S TRUE.*
BUT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIX YOUR MISTAKES, YOU JUST KEEP DIGGING A DEEPER *HOLE* FOR YOURSELF.
HELL, I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP YOU LOCKED UP IN THE SAME ROOM WITH THE OTHERS WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT CRAZY *ESCAPE PLANS* YOU GUYS WERE CONCOCTING.
*See TMNT #122--C.B.

AND NOW YOU HAVE A REAL CHANCE TO REDEEM YOURSELF, BUT INSTEAD, YOU'RE *STILL* DIGGING.
WHY?
THAT'S NOT THE HERMAN I KNOW. NOT THE GOOD SOLDIER...
...NOT THE *HERO.*
FINE. I'LL HELP YOU FIND OLD HOB.
BUT ON *ONE* CONDITION.

GO AHEAD. WE'RE LISTENING.
I WON'T GIVE RAPHAEL THE COORDINATES TO WHERE HOB'S BIVOUACKED, BUT I *WILL* ESCORT HIM THERE PERSONALLY.
IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, IF THERE REALLY *IS* BIG DANGER BREWING, THEN I WANT MY REAL SHELL BACK... AND ALL MY *WEAPONS* WITH IT.
YOU WANT MY HELP...

...THEN I WANT BACK INTO THE *GOOD FIGHT.*
"SO SHREDDER'S GOT RAPH *CHASIN'* AFTER OLD HOB..."


...JENNY PLAYIN' COP IN MUTANT TOWN, KARAI KEEPIN' AN EYE ON THE CITY, AND YOU RUNNIN' ALL OF IT FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.
WHERE'S THAT LEAVE THE REST OF US?
BASICALLY, STOPPING RAT KING'S TEAM FROM TURNING MUTANT TOWN INTO AN OFFICIAL INTERNMENT CAMP.
LIKE THE PLACE AIN'T A FREAKIN' PRISON ALREADY.
WE'RE HOPING YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF SECURITY ALONG THE SHORELINE AND DOCKS, ANGEL...
...WITH CASEY PATROLLING THE AREA OUTSIDE THE MUTANT TOWN WALL.
PATROLLIN' FOR WHAT, EXACTLY?
HONESTLY, WE'RE NOT SURE. INTEL'S LIMITED AT THIS POINT...
...SO BEST I CAN TELL YOU IS TO JUST KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR ANYTHING THAT SEEMS OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
SECOND TIME AROUND
ORDINARY, HE SAYS.
APRIL, SAKI WANTS YOU TO KEEP CLOSE TABS ON STOCKMAN.
HE FIGURES THERE'S GONNA BE A LOT OF DISINFORMATION COMING OUT OF CITY HALL SO THE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM YOUR TEAM IS UP TO IS GONNA BE KEY...
...TO WINNING THE PROPAGANDA WAR.
LOLA, MONA, AND I ARE ALREADY AHEAD OF YOU, DONNIE.
STOCKMAN'S GIVING HIS STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS LATER TONIGHT, AND WE'RE PREPPING TO DO SOME SERIOUS FACT-CHECKING FOR OUR READERS.
AND LISTENERS!
OH YEAH...

...WE'RE THINKING ABOUT HIJACKING MIKEY'S PODCAST GEAR WHILE HE'S AWAY.
MONA'S GONNA BE THE VOICE THAT SPREADS OUR NEWS REPORTS AS FAR AND WIDE AS POSSIBLE.
GOOD IDEA. I'M SURE MIKEY WON'T MIND.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE DUDES WENT ALL THE WAY TO DIMENSION X WITH SHREDDER.
BELIEVE IT, ANGEL.
SAKI CAME ACROSS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT GROUPS OVER THERE THAT HE THINKS WILL BE ABLE TO HELP US AGAINST RAT KING AND THE OTHERS.
IF THEY CAN FIND THEM, THAT IS.
SOUNDS LIKE A BIG IF TO ME.
YO! I GOT A QUESTION--
--WHO DIED AND MADE SHRED-HEAD THE BOSS?
MY FATHER.
OH. YEAH. SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
UM, WE SHOULD LET YOU GO, DONNIE...
...LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE ELSE NEEDING YOUR ATTENTION.
"I KNOW THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING..."

...NOR IS IT WHAT YOU DESERVE CONSIDERING ***ALL*** YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR PEOPLE AND OUR PLANET.

BUT AIDING YOUR EFFORTS NOW COULD VERY WELL BE THE CATALYST THAT LEADS TO A COMPLETE ***UNRAVELING*** OF THE FRAGILE ARMISTICE WE CURRENTLY SHARE WITH THE PLANET AERWYL.

THE ***PLANET AERWYL,*** YOUR MAJESTY?

FORMERLY THE ***HUB*** FOR ALL COALITION OPERATIONS...

"...HOME TO THE ***IMPERIAL AERWYL STARFLEET*** AND UNDER THE RULERSHIP OF THE ***CHANCELLOR MAZOOL.***"

"DICTATORSHIP WOULD BE A MORE ***APT*** DESCRIPTION."

"QUEEN GIZZLA IS RIGHT. MAZOOL HAS BECOME QUITE THE ***DESPOT*** OF LATE.

"FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE UTROM EMPIRE, A VERITABLE ***POWER VACUUM*** WAS LEFT IN ITS WAKE ACROSS THE ENTIRETY OF DIMENSION X.

"THE COALITION THAT WAS FORMED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE UTROMS WAS ALWAYS ***TENUOUS*** AT BEST, AND ONCE THE UTROMS WERE OUT OF THE WAY, MANY PLANETS PULLED OUT OF THE COALITION TO STAKE THEIR TERRITORIES.

"SOME WITH GREATER ***IMPERIAL AMBITIONS*** OF THEIR OWN...

"...NOT THE ***LEAST*** OF WHICH WAS THE PLANET AERWYL, LED BY THE RUTHLESS CHANCELLOR MAZOOL.

"WHEN MAZOOL BEGAN HIS SLOW BUT STEADY IMPERIAL MARCH AFTER THE UTROM EMPIRE WAS DEFEATED, MEMBERS OF THE NOVA SQUADRON DIVISION YOU SEEK ***REBELLED***... EVENTUALLY BEING CAPTURED AND LABELED AS TRAITORS.

"THEY WERE ABLE ESCAPE THEIR IMPRISONMENT, HOWEVER, AND NOW OPERATE AS FREELANCE BOUNTY HUNTERS UNDER THE NAME ***NOVA POSSE.***"

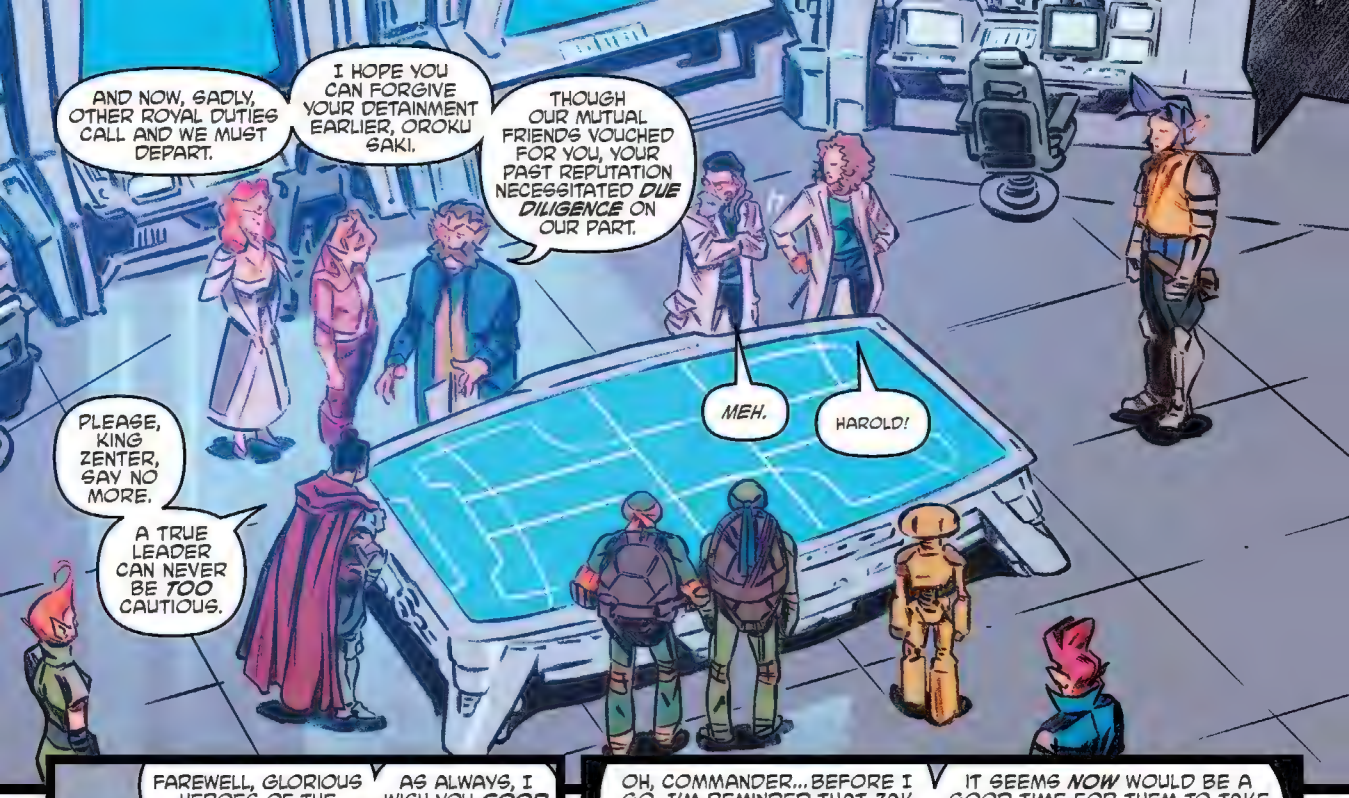
AND WHILE I HOLD GRAVE CONCERNS FOR MAZOOL'S IMPERIAL AMBITIONS, THERE REMAINS A ***TRUCE*** BETWEEN OUR PLANET AND HIS.

AS A RESULT, THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS POLITICAL AND MILITARY RAMIFICATIONS SHOULD I BE SEEN ENDORSING ***ANY*** ACTIONS INVOLVING THE NOVA POSSE OTHER THAN THEIR CAPTURE.

AND ALTHOUGH WE MAINTAIN NO RECORDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL ***CHERUBAE*** YOU ARE SEEKING IN DIMENSION Z, WE NEUTRINOS ARE BEHOLDEN TO A GENERAL DIMENSION X TREATY THAT ***DISALLOWS*** ANY AND ALL MULTIDIMENSIONAL EXCURSIONS OF AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

AS MUCH AS I WANT TO HELP YOU IN YOUR QUEST, I CANNOT. AS KING AND SWORN PROTECTOR OF THIS PLANET, MY FIRST ALLEGIANCE MUST ***ALWAYS*** BE TO MY PEOPLE AND TO THE RULE OF INTERSTELLAR LAW.

I AM ***TRULY*** SORRY.


AND NOW, SADLY, OTHER ROYAL DUTIES CALL AND WE MUST DEPART.
I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE YOUR DETAINMENT EARLIER, OROKU SAKI.
THOUGH OUR MUTUAL FRIENDS VOUCHED FOR YOU, YOUR PAST REPUTATION NECESSITATED *DUE DILIGENCE* ON OUR PART.
MEH.
HAROLD!
PLEASE, KING ZENTER, SAY NO MORE.
A TRUE LEADER CAN NEVER BE *TOO* CAUTIOUS.

FAREWELL, GLORIOUS HEROES OF THE KRANG WAR.
AS ALWAYS, I WISH YOU *GOOD FORTUNE.*

OH, COMMANDER... BEFORE I GO, I'M REMINDED THAT ZAK AND KALA ARE FAR OVERDUE FOR SOME WELL-DESERVED *LEAVE* FROM THEIR ROYAL GUARD DUTIES.
IT SEEMS *NOW* WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR THEM TO TAKE IT. AND PERHAPS THEY WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO INVITE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS FROM EARTH TO *ACCOMPANY* THEM ON THEIR VACATION...
...*UNOFFICIALLY,* OF COURSE.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN *EXCELLENT* PLAN, YOUR MAJESTY.

WAIT. WHAT'S THIS MEAN?
IT MEANS, MIKEY, THAT MY FATHER IS A GREAT KING...
...BUT AN EVEN *GREATER* FRIEND.

GOOD LUCK, MY HERO.
SMAK
WELL, WHAT'RE WE *WAITING* FOR, DADDY-O'S...

"...LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!"
...AND SO, MY FELLOW NEW YORKERS, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TONIGHT, HERE, ON THE GRAND STEPS OF CITY HALL, THAT THE STATE OF OUR CITY IS STRONG...
...AND THE BEST IS YET TO COME!
"MAN..."
...THAT DUDE SURE LOVES TO HEAR HIMSELF TALK, I SWEAR.
WHAT POLITICIAN DOESN'T, HERNANDEZ?
YOU DON'T GOTTA LISTEN, THOUGH. JUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON THIS DAMN CROWD.
ROGER THAT, DETECTIVE LEWIS.
DESPITE THE MANY OBSTACLES STANDING IN THE WAY WHEN I WAS ELECTED, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS EXCELLED SINCE I TOOK OVER THIS IMPORTANT OFFICE.
OUR ECONOMY IS ON THE RISE, CRIME IS DOWN, IMPROVEMENTS TO INFRASTRUCTURE CONTINUE APACE, AND OUR CITIZENRY ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF UNPRECEDENTED SECURITY.
ALL THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE ESPECIALLY NOTABLE AND, DARE I SAY, COMMENDABLE, CONSIDERING THE DANGEROUS COMPLEXITIES WE FACE ON A DAILY BASIS WHILE MAINTAINING MUTANT TOWN AND ITS RESIDENTS IN OUR MIDST.
AND ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT YET BE CERTAIN IF OUR MUTATED NEIGHBORS ARE TO BE TRUSTED, YOU CAN BE REST ASSURED THAT YOUR MAYOR WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU AND YOURS SAFE FROM ANY HARM THEY MAY BE CAPABLE OF.
LIES!
OH HELL...

SAFE AND SECURE FROM THE BIG, BAD MUTANTS?

LET'S SHOW EVERYBODY WHAT A JOKE *THAT* IS, FELLAS!

FWOOM

RAAAAH!

PROTECT THE *MAYOR!*

DAMMIT! WHERE ARE THEY?

MICHELANGELO!

WHAT THE *HELL* ARE YOU GUYS DO--

KRAK

UNFF!

OUTTA MY *WAY*, COP!

WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE *GOIN'*, MR. MAYOR?

I--

UNHAND THE MAYOR AND *STAND DOWN!*

WHO THE...

DARKWATER!
PREPARE TO FIRE!

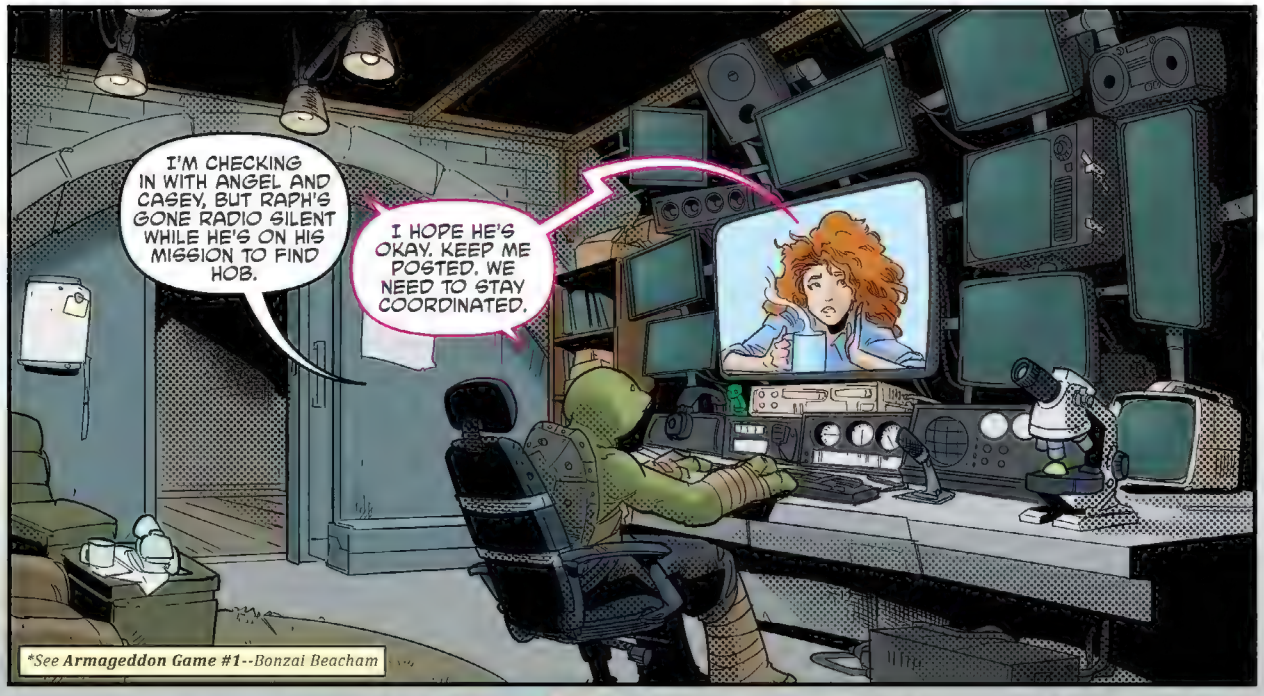
art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by FAHRIZA KAMAPUTRA

art by FERO PE

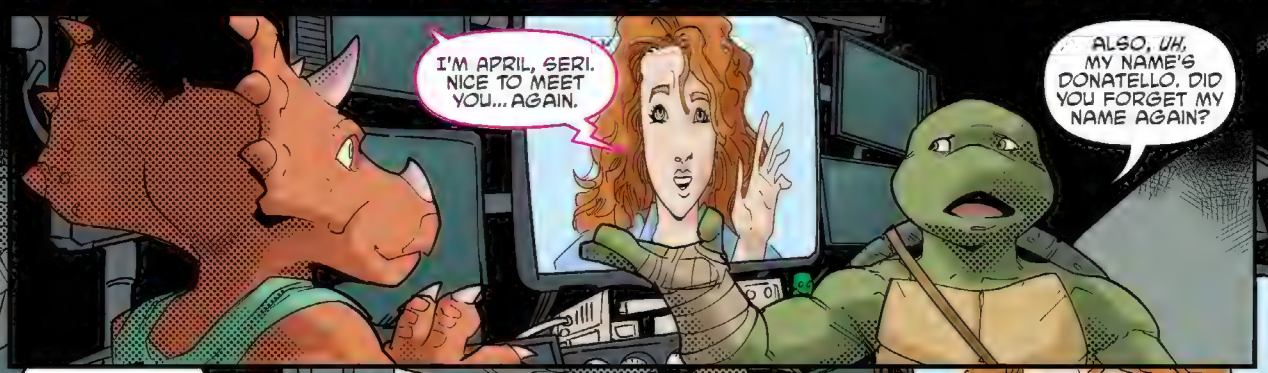
ISSUE #133

THE FUTURE.
BOB, PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.
I HAVE TO.
CARMEN, GO.
BUT SENSEI...

LEO!
WHAT THE HELL...
AAAH!
EEEEEEK!


I'M CHECKING IN WITH ANGEL AND CASEY, BUT RAPH'S GONE RADIO SILENT WHILE HE'S ON HIS MISSION TO FIND HOB.
I HOPE HE'S OKAY. KEEP ME POSTED. WE NEED TO STAY COORDINATED.
*See **Armageddon Game #1**--Bonzai Beacham

SIR TURTLE! THERE'S A LADY UPSTAIRS!
AH, SERI! YOU SCARED ME!
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO GO IN THAT ROOM. CARMEN'S RESTING IN THERE.
YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE IN *HERE*, EITHER.
WHERE'S WANDA? WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER YOU?
WANDA WENT TO GET MORE FOOD SINCE I AM VERY HUNGRY.
WHO IS *CARMEN?* WHO IS THAT LADY? WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?


I'M APRIL, SERI. NICE TO MEET YOU... AGAIN.
ALSO, *UH*, MY NAME'S DONATELLO. DID YOU FORGET MY NAME AGAIN?

DONATELLO! YES. THERE ARE TOO MANY NAMES.
LOOK, SERI, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE IN HERE, I NEED TO STAY FOCUSED ON--
WHY ARE *PEPPERONI* AND *PEPPERONI ON PIZZA* CALLED THE SAME THING?

ALL RIGHT, DONNIE, I'LL LET YOU TAKE CARE OF ALL THAT. CHECK IN WITH JENNY. SHE SHOULD BE AT SALLY'S OFFICE BY NOW.
SHOULD BE, YEAH. YOU AND THE NEWS TEAM ARE GETTING READY FOR BAXTER'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS, RIGHT?
RIGHT. MONA AND I ARE HANGING BACK IN THE NEWSROOM WHILE LOLA SNEAKS OUT AND GOES ON LOCATION.
TELL HER TO BE CAREFUL. TALK TO YOU SOON.
OVER AND OUT.
OH! CARMEN! YOU'RE AWAKE. THIS IS SERI.
SHE ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK! I THOUGHT IT WAS ANOTHER TRICERATOPS INVASION OR WHATEVER!

YOU FEELING OKAY, CARMEN? ANYTHING I CAN GET YOU?
I HAD THE CRAZIEST NIGHTMARE, BUT... I'LL BE OKAY.
SO WHERE'D SHE COME FROM, ANYHOW?
WHAT IS THIS?
WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?

WELL, RIGHT NOW WE'RE DEALING WITH AN UNHINGED DEMIGOD CALLED RAT KING WHO WANTS TO PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO CHAOS SO HIS FAMILY WILL PAY ATTENTION TO HIM.
LEO AND MIKEY ARE IN ANOTHER DIMENSION TRYING TO RECRUIT HELP TO STOP HIM, WHILE THE REST OF US SHORE UP DEFENSES HERE ON EARTH.

AND WHILE ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS ALIEN CALLED CH'RELL HAS TAKEN OVER THE ISLAND WHERE HIS PEOPLE, THE UTROMS, AND SERI'S PEOPLE, THE TRICERATONS, NOT TRICERATOPS, LIVE.
SERI, PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THAT!
A TINY ROBOT! DOES IT FUNCTION?

SO THEN SERI WAS ARTIFICIALLY AGED TO ADULTHOOD IN ORDER TO EVENTUALLY LEAD THE TRICERATON PEOPLE AND--
CH'RELL KILLED MY MOTHER AND DR. ZURA AND MA'RIELL HELPED ME ESCAPE! I AM MEANT TO BE THE TRICERATON REGENTA, SO I MUST FULFILL MY DESTINY AND AVENGE MY MOTHER'S DEATH.
...YEAH, ALL THAT. I HELPED BROKER PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO SPECIES. IT'S HEARTBREAKING THAT IT'S ALL FALLING APART SO SOON.
OKAY, HOLD UP, SO THERE ARE ALIENS AND GODS AND OTHER DIMENSIONS?!
WHO ARE THESE "SPACE HEROES" AND COULD THEY HELP US?
SPACE HEROES
IS BIGFOOT REAL, TOO?
PROBABLY.
WHAT IS THIS CRYSTAL?
SERI, CAREFUL WITH THAT! IT'S A SAMPLE I BROUGHT BACK FROM, UH, A RECENT TRAINING EXERCISE.
MAGIC'S GOTTA BE A REAL THING, TOO, RIGHT? IS IT A MAGIC CRYSTAL?!
WELL, MAGIC IS JUST SCIENCE THAT HASN'T YET BEEN EXPLAINED.
IN ANY CASE, I'D LIKE TO STUDY IT MORE BEFORE I TRY TO UNTANGLE THE SEMANTICS.
IT'S A FORM OF ENERGY, SO IT SHOULD BE QUANTIFIABLE. I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW.

AT THE VERY LEAST, IT MIGHT HELP GIVE THE GOOD GUYS AN ADVANTAGE AGAINST ALL THE EVIL-DOERS WE'RE UP AGAINST RIGHT NOW. PLUS OTHER ENEMIES DOWN THE LINE, TOO.
LIKE CH'RELL!
WE SHOULD USE THE CRYSTAL AGAINST HIM NOW! I VOW VENGEANCE!
ONE THING AT A TIME, SERI.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY REAL RESOURCES TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK LIKE THAT, PLUS ALL THE EVIL SUPERVILLAIN STUFF RIGHT NOW...
...BUT YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE. I PROMISE.
YOU SHOULD PROB'LY STAY INSIDE FOR A WHILE, ANYWAYS, SERI. FOLKS AROUND HERE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE TRICERATONS.
WHATCHA SAY WE PLAY SOME VIDEO GAMES?
WHAT IS VIDEO GAMES?
OH, JUST YOU WAIT.
MUTANT TOWN CITY HALL.
"LOOKS LIKE I'M YOUR NEW CONSTABLE, HUH? UGH."
Nick's BAR

ACTING CONSTABLE.
I DO APPRECIATE THE HELP, JENNY. I WAS SURPRISED RAPH TOOK THE HOB MISSION. DID YOU SEE THAT COMING?
NO, I WAS SURPRISED, TOO. I EVEN VOLUNTEERED TO DO IT 'CAUSE OF HIS HISTORY WITH HOB, BUT HE WAS LIKE, "NAW, DUDE, I GOT THIS."
HA! SPOT-ON RAPH IMPRESSION.
I HOPE HE FINDS WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR. I TRY TO BE THERE FOR HIM, BUT HE'S SUCH A TOUGH GUY. HE ACTS LIKE HE'S IRREDEEMABLE.
HE AND I DON'T REALLY TALK THAT MUCH, BUT I KNOW HE STILL BEATS HIMSELF UP OVER THE M-BOMB. I DO, TOO, I GUESS, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FOR HIM.
SO WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO AS CONSTABLE?
IT FEELS WEIRD. I DUNNO IF I LIKE BEING THE MAN, YOU KNOW?
I'VE HAD LOTS OF RUN-INS WITH THE LAW. I KNOW HOW THAT STUFF GOES AND IT'S NOT ALWAYS GOOD.
YOU'LL HAVE DEPUTY MONTY'S HELP. HE'S A GOOD GUY. HE'LL HELP SHOW YOU THE ROPES.
JENNY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HUMAN COPS ARE LIKE, BUT YOU JUST GOTTA BE SOMEONE PEOPLE CAN TURN TO WHEN THEY FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN TROUBLE. THAT'S ALL.

I THINK I GET IT. DO I HAVE TO WEAR A CAPE LIKE RAPH DOES?
HEH, NO, THAT'S NOT REQUIRED. THAT'S JUST A RAPH THING.
"GOOD MORNING, MUTANT TOWN, THIS IS MONA LISA COMING TO YOU LIVE..."

...FILLING IN FOR MICHELANGELO WHILE HE'S BUSY WITH SERIOUS NINJA BUSINESS.
AS MANY OF YOU HAVE PROBABLY NOTICED, THINGS ARE LOOKING UP AROUND HERE THANKS TO OUR NEW MAYOR SALLY PRIDE AND THE EFFORTS OF OUR LOCAL NINJA FRIENDS, THE SPLINTER CLAN.

"WE'VE EVEN GOT OUR OWN NEWSPAPER IN THE WORKS, TENTATIVELY TITLED THE M-TOWN GAZETTE!
"YOURS TRULY WILL BE DOING SOME WORK ON IT.

"MICHELANGELO ISN'T THE ONLY SPLINTER CLAN MEMBER WHO'S GETTING A FILL-IN AT THE MOMENT.
"BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ACTING CONSTABLE JENNIKA, WHO'S HELPING OUT RAPHAEL WITH CONSTABLE DUTIES.
"IF YOU SEE HER, BE SURE TO GIVE HER SOME GENTLE TEASING FOR ME."

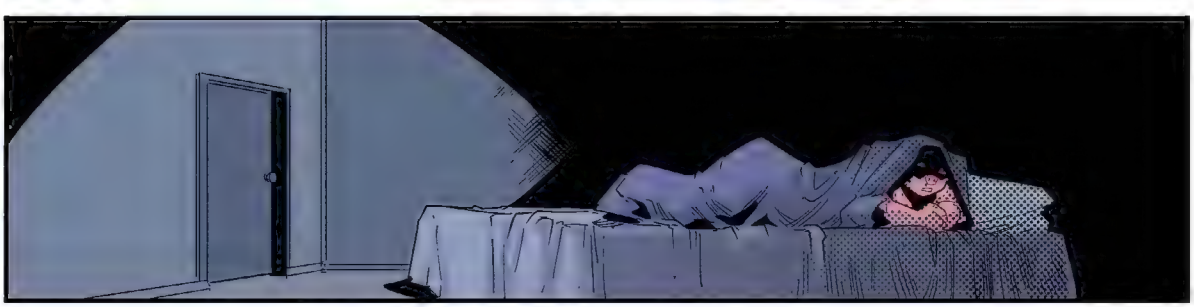
I JUST WANTED TO CALL AND SEE HOW YOU'VE BEEN, ESPECIALLY AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED. YOU BEEN HOLDING UP?
AND I'M REAL SORRY I DISAPPEARED FOR A BIT. I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT IF YOU WANNA MEET UP LATER.

I KNOW YOU GOT SERIOUS NINJA HERO STUFF TO DO, BABY. DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.
BUT I'VE BEEN OKAY. IT'S A LOT TO THINK ABOUT, *UM...* I DON'T REMEMBER A LOT OF IT. IT'S FOGGY.

IF YOU WANNA TALK, THOUGH, I'M HERE. I'M BACK, AND I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

IS LITA KEEPING YOU COMPANY? THANKS AGAIN FOR TAKING HER IN UNTIL THINGS DIE DOWN.
LITA'S OUT WITH WANDA RIGHT NOW AT THE SUPERMARKET.

MAYBE I'LL SWING BY THERE AND SAY HI AND THEN STOP BY YOUR PLACE AFTER, IF THAT'S COOL? I WANNA SEE YOU.
OKAY. SEE YOU THEN.



THAT'S RIGHT, IRMA, MAYOR STOCKMAN SHOULD BE OUT HERE ANY MINUTE TO GIVE HIS *STATE OF THE CITY* ADDRESS...
FINGERS CROSSED FOR STOCKMAN LIFTING SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS.
I NEED ME SOME ANTIBIOTICS AND FRESH COFFEE.
AND MORE ACTUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTEAD OF MORE E.P.F.
ARE YOU KIDDING? HOW 'BOUT *LESS* PEOPLE *PATROLLING* US?
JENNY! WOW, NEAT *COSTUME!* ARE YOU A *SUPERHERO* NOW?
HA, NOT QUITE. I MISSED YOU, LITA!
HEY, WANDA. YOU SHOPPING FOR THE BUNKER?
YOU KNOW IT. SENSEI DONNIE'S GOT ME DOING ERRANDS WHILE HE MONITORS THE CITY FOR TROUBLE.
OH, THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS IS STARTING! LOLA'S THERE FOR THE NEW PAPER, RIGHT?
GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. WELCOME TO THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.
YEP. I'M DREADING WHAT STOCKMAN'S GONNA SAY. I BETTER CHECK IN WITH DONNIE FOR UPDATES.

FOOT CLAN HEADQUARTERS.
BLUDGEON?
WHERE IS HE?
BLUUUDGEONNN!
WHO'S THERE?

IT'S ME, VENUS.
HOW WAS YOUR MEDITATION TODAY? YOUR BODY SEEMS TO BE HEALING FASTER.
I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T CLEAR MY HEAD. MY MIND IS RACING.
THIS PLACE ISN'T HELPING, EITHER!
I KNOW, I'M SORRY FOR THAT. I DIDN'T THINK THIS THROUGH.
ALSO I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN KEEP YOUR PRESENCE HERE A SECRET. WE'LL FIND A NEW, SAFER PLACE SOON.
NOW, COME, LET'S BEGIN.
VENUS. YOU'RE DISTRACTED.
WE BOTH ARE.

I FEEL TRAPPED.
BY THIS PLACE. BY MYSELF.
I ONLY HAVE FLEETING MEMORIES OF MY HUMAN LIFE, BUT I FELT TRAPPED THEN, TOO. WILL IT EVER END?
VENUS, YOUR ARM!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
MAYBE REMINISCING AND FOCUSING ON YOUR LOST MEMORIES IS AIDING IN YOUR HEALING?
HEALING YOUR FRACTURED IDENTITY COULD RECONSTITUTE YOUR FRACTURED BODY.
MAYBE. LET'S TRY AGAIN.
ALL RIGHT. BREATHE... FOCUS...

VENUS?
I CAN FEEL YOU!
WHERE ARE YOU?

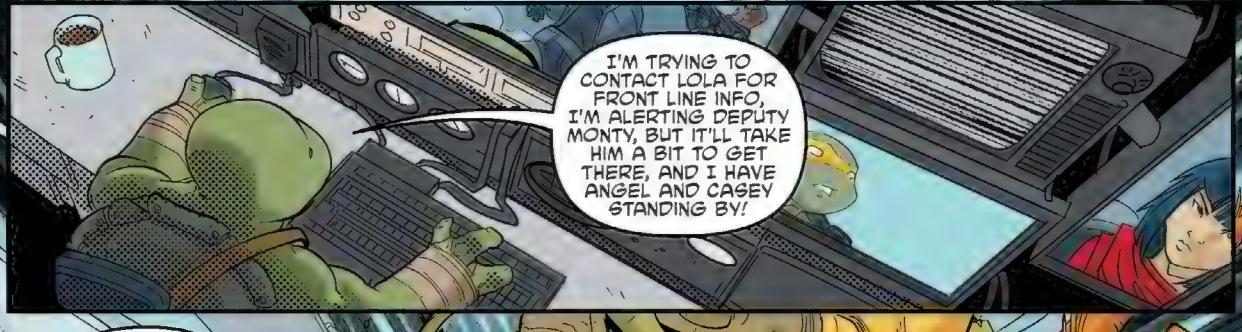
I CAN'T TELL YOU RIGHT NOW.
VENUS, WAIT! NO--
...WE CANNOT YET BE CERTAIN IF OUR MUTATED NEIGHBORS ARE TO BE TRUSTED. YOU CAN REST ASSURED...
DAMN IT.
...THAT YOUR MAYOR WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU AND YOURS SAFE FROM ANY HARM THEY MAY BE CAPABLE OF.
LIES!
SAFE AND SECURE FROM THE BIG, BAD MUTAN--

LET'S SHOW EVERYBODY WHAT A JOKE *THAT* IS, FELLAS!
APRIL, MONA, IT'S DONNIE.
JENNY, COME IN.
IS EVERYONE *SEEING THIS?!*
CASEY. ANGEL. COME IN.
ANYONE?!

IS THAT... THE TURTLES?!
YEAH! STICK IT TO STOCKMAN! LET HIM HAVE IT!
NOW THEY'LL NEVER LET US OUTTA HERE!
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS FISHY! THE OTHER FOUR TURTLES LEAVE TOWN SUDDENLY AND NOW THIS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THAT'S NOT THEM!

THE SPLINTER CLAN ARE GOOD GUYS!
IT'S SOME KINDA IMPOSTERS OR SOMETHING!
DONNIE! GOT ANYTHING FOR ME?
GUESSING YOU SAW THE ADDRESS. PEOPLE DOWN HERE THINK IT WAS YOU GUYS!

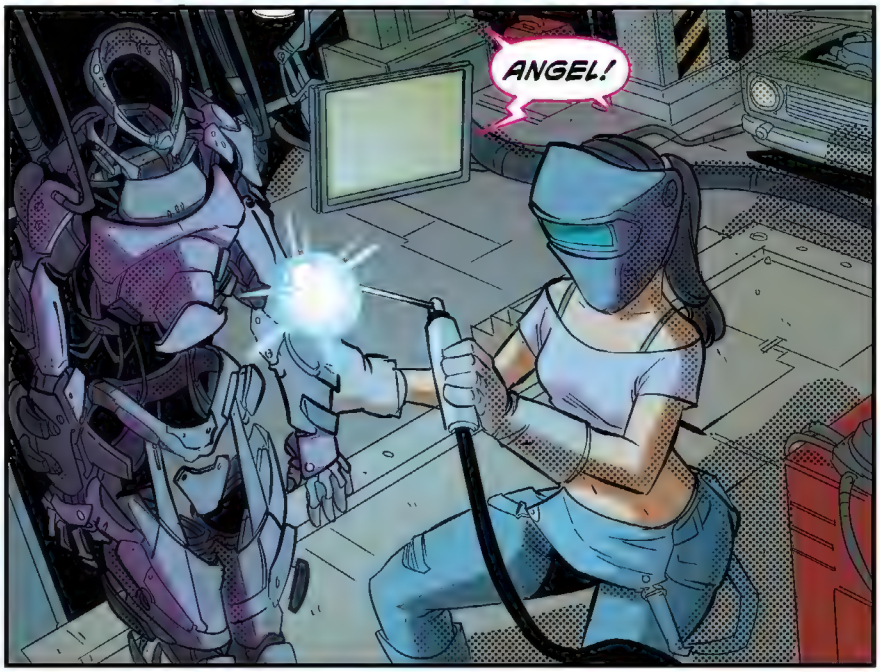
YOU DAMN TURTLES'RE GONNA GIVE THE REST OF US MUTANTS A BAD NAME!
I SAW IT. I'M TRACKING REACTIONS AROUND MUTANT TOWN, AND THERE'S POCKETS OF GROWING UNREST ALL OVER THE PLACE.
YES, I KNOW! IT'S CHAOS OVER HERE!


I'M TRYING TO CONTACT LOLA FOR FRONT LINE INFO, I'M ALERTING DEPUTY MONTY, BUT IT'LL TAKE HIM A BIT TO GET THERE, AND I HAVE ANGEL AND CASEY STANDING BY!

ANY MUTANT WHO LIKES STOCKMAN IS A TRAITOR!
THE SPLINTER NINJAS WANNA TURN THIS PLACE INTO A POLICE STATE WITH THEM IN CHARGE!
I STAND WITH THE SPLINTER CLAN!
STANDING BY?!

I NEED BACKUP NOW, DONNIE!

HAROLD LILJA'S LAB.


ANGEL!

YO, DONNIE! WHAT'S THE SITCH?
NO MORE STANDBY, YOU NEED TO GET OVER TO THE MUTANT TOWN SUPERMARKET AT STUYVESANT SQUARE PARK, ASAP.

I'M ON IT. JUST GOTTA GET MY EXOSUIT ON--
BEEP BEEP, WARNING.
OH NO, WHAT'S THAT?

INCOMING GRAVITATIONAL ENERGY SURGE. UNIDENTIFIED HUMANOID SIGNATURES DUE EAST, 150.47 METERS AND CLOSING. DANGER IMMINENT.
UH-OH. THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
WHAT'S THIS *MEAN*, DON? ANY IDEA WHAT THE *ENERGY SURGE* COULD BE?
I'M TRYING TO GET A READING, BUT MY EQUIPMENT'S JUST NOT AS GOOD AS HAROLD'S. DAMN!
COME ON, COME ON...
52.6 METERS.
GRAVITATIONAL ENERGY COULD BE TELEPORTATION OR EVEN A GRAVITY DRIVE *ENGINE*, I JUST...
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S COMIN' TOWARD THE LAB *FAST*.
28.1 METERS.
ZERO METERS.
ANGEL!
KA-BOOM

WE MEAN YOU NO HARM.
YEAH, RIGHT!
ANGEL, I CAN'T SEE! I NEED-- TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING! ARE YOU OKAY?!
ANGEL, ARE YOU THERE?! ANGEL!
IMMEDIATE THREAT IS NEUTRALIZED.
SPREAD OUT.
SEARCH AND DESTROY.
BEACHAM AVE.
MANNING ST.
WHITMAN LN.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN & SOPHIE CAMPBELL

art by Vincenzo Federici
colors by Matt Herms

THE ARMAGEDDON GAME #2

CITY HALL. NEW YORK CITY.
ONE MONTH AGO.
"SO, AS YOU CAN SEE, GENTLEMEN, THE INTELLIGENCE WE HAVE GATHERED IS AS CLEAR AS IT IS DISTURBING--"
--A ROGUE GROUP OF MUTANT TURTLES AND SELF-PROCLAIMED "NINJAS" ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TERRORISTIC OPERATIONS AGAINST BOTH MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL...
...WITH THE STATED GOAL OF ASSASSINATING ME, WHICH IN TURN THEY HOPE WILL INCITE A HUMAN-MUTANT CIVIL WAR THAT WILL DESTROY THIS CITY.
WELL, IF THESE ARE THE SAME MUTANT TURTLES WE TANGLED WITH BEFORE, THEY'RE DAMN PROFICIENT COMBATANTS, WHETHER YOU WANNA CALL THEM NINJAS OR NOT.*
BUT FROM OUR EXPERIENCE, THIS WHOLE INSURGENCY THING DOESN'T EXACTLY FIT THEIR M.O. ESPECIALLY THE ASSASSINATION PART.
YOU SURE YOUR INTEL'S SOLID, MAYOR STOCKMAN?
*See TMNT, Vol. 17, "Desperate Measures"--C.B.
I ASSURE YOU, COLONEL KNIGHT, MY SOURCES ARE RELIABLE AND WELL PLACED...
...BOTH OUT HERE IN THE CITY PROPER AS WELL AS WITHIN THE WALLS OF MUTANT TOWN.
SOURCES? OTHER MUTANTS?
THAT IS SOMETHING I PREFER TO KEEP TO MYSELF, SERGEANT WINTER.
FOR NOW.
YOU SEE, OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST YEAR, I'VE FOUND THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE I KEEP SUCH SENSITIVE INFORMATION TIGHTLY COMPARTMENTALIZED, AS IT'S BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHOM I CAN TRUST.
WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I'VE ASKED YOU HERE FOR THIS MEETING TODAY. WHICH, AS I'M CERTAIN YOU'VE ALREADY SURMISED, IS, IN REALITY, A THINLY VEILED JOB INTERVIEW.

YEAH. FIGURED YOU WERE SIZING US UP FOR SOME KIND OF GIG.
BUT WITH EVERY COP IN THIS CITY UNDER YOUR COMMAND, AND THE E.P.F. DUG IN AND LOOKING FOR ANY EXCUSE TO FIGHT MONSTERS, WHY BRING IN FREELANCERS LIKE US? SEEMS LIKE AN UNNECESSARY REDUNDANCY, IF YOU ASK ME.
AND EXPENSIVE.
I ADMIT, IT WOULD SEEM GROSS OVERKILL ON THE SURFACE. BUT WHEN ONE DIGS DEEPER, ONE FINDS MUTANT SYMPATHIZERS RUNNING RAMPANT AT ALL LEVELS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.
YEAH, WE'D HEARD DIRECTOR BRAUNZE HAS HIS FOLKS OPERATING UNDER A DEFENSIVE OBSERVE-AND-CONTAIN DIRECTIVE EVER SINCE AGENT BISHOP GOT TAKEN OUT.*
WHICH STILL BEGS THE QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US? IF THESE MUTANT NINJAS HAVE ALREADY ATTACKED THE E.P.F., YOU GOTTA FIGURE THEIR BRASS ARE GONNA TAKE A MORE OFFENSIVE STANCE AS A RESULT.
YES. YOU WOULD THINK SO. AND PERHAPS THEY WILL.
BUT THEIR INTERESTS REMAIN GLOBALLY DRIVEN, WHILE MINE ARE OF BOTH A LOCAL AND PERSONAL NATURE...
*See TMNT, Vols. 22 & 23, "City at War"--C.B.
NOT TO MENTION AN EARTH PROTECTION FORCE WITH A VERY DIFFERENT AGENDA THAN THE AGENCY YOU SERVED IN THE PAST.
THEIR RANK AND FILE MAY BE CRAVING A MONSTER FIGHT, AS YOU SAY, BUT THEIR NEW LEADERSHIP IS NOT NEARLY AS MOTIVATED.
...AND FAR MORE IMMEDIATE.
I UNDERSTAND DARK-WATER REQUIRES COMPENSATION COMMENSURATE WITH YOUR EXPERTISE. TRUST ME, MONEY IS OF NO CONCERN.
WHAT IS OF CONCERN IS THE WELL-BEING OF THIS CITY... AND OF MY PERSON. I SEEK YOUR SERVICES AS MY PRIVATE SECURITY TEAM, TO PROTECT ME AGAINST THE TERRORIST THREAT WE'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED...
...AS WELL AS ANOTHER WE HAVE NOT.
GONUVA...
REC
...HOB.
MAYOR STOCKMAN...

"...CONSIDER US IN."
NEW YORK CITY HALL.
NOW.
DARKWATER!
PREPARE TO FIRE!
YOU SOLDIER BOYS START SHOOTIN' AND YOUR LITTLE MAYOR HERE'S GONNA EAT THOSE BULLETS FIRST, UNDERSTAND?
HRGGK...
YEAH. I UNDERSTAND.
JUST LIKE I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE NOT A BUNCH OF ROOKIES. NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE YOU CORNERED...
STAND BY, BRAVO.

"...WE'VE GOT A SNIPER SIGHTING IN ON YOU AS WE SPEAK."
BRAVO STANDING BY.
"JUST WAITING FOR THE ORDER TO SEND A ROUND DOWNRANGE FOR YOU TO EAT...
"...SO FAST, YOU'LL NEVER EVEN HAVE TIME TO TASTE IT."

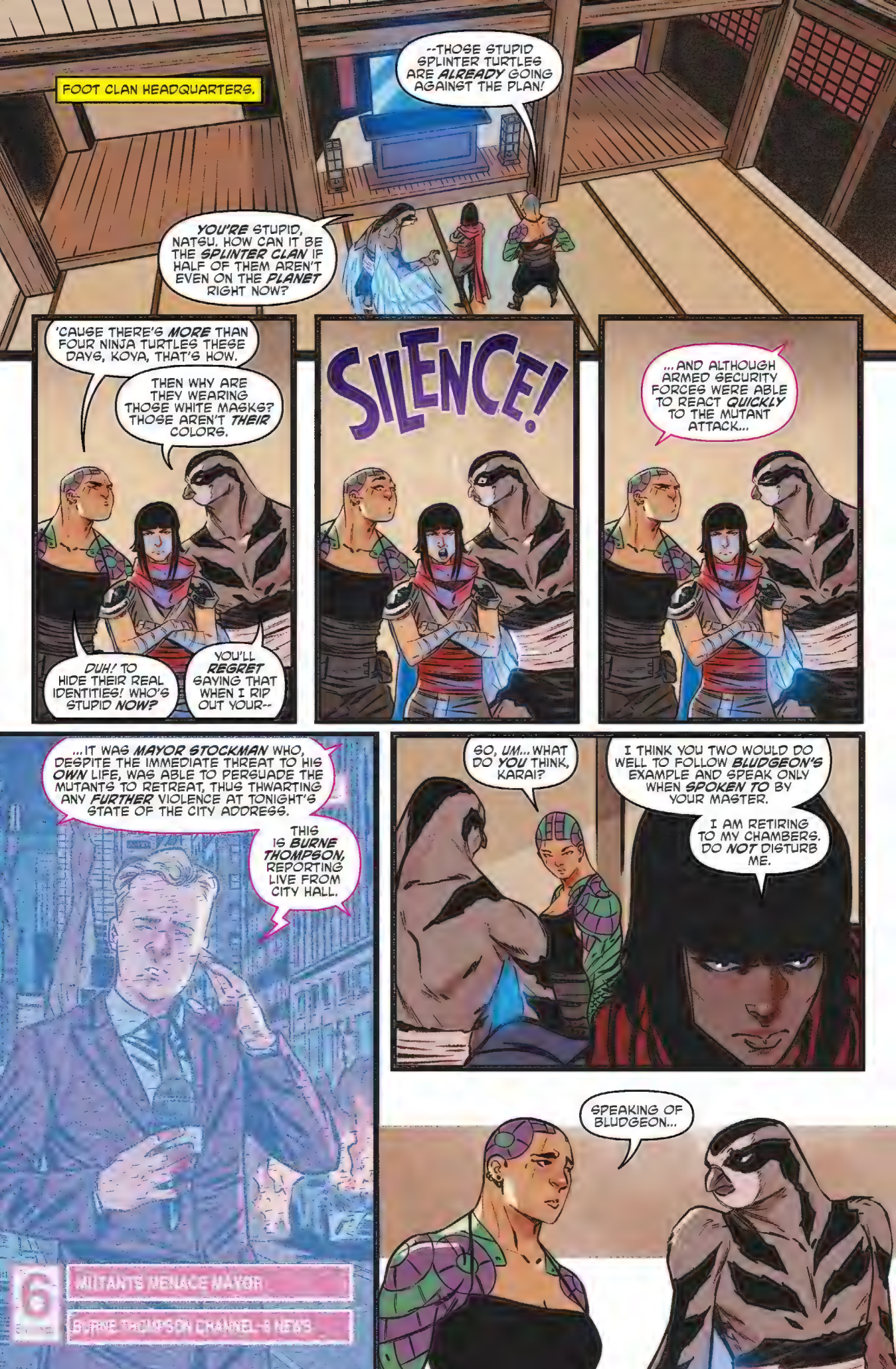
YOU OKAY, DETECTIVE LEWIS? YOUR HEAD'S REALLY BLEEDING.
YEAH... YEAH, I'M GOOD, HERNANDEZ.
JUST TRYING TO HEAR WHAT THOSE PSYCHOS ARE SAYING.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY... RAPHAEL, IS IT?
NO, I'M... I'M LEONARDO.
LEONARDO?
UM, YEAH... OKAY. LEONARDO.
YOU FOUR READY TO CUT THE MAYOR LOOSE, LEONARDO? STAND DOWN AND TALK THIS OUT BEFORE THOSE BULLETS WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT START FLYING?
WE--
LET... THEM... GO... COLONEL.
WHAT... WHAT'D YOU SAY, SIR?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR MORE... BLOODSHED.
IF YOU AGREE TO RELEASE ME... LEONARDO... YOU ARE ALL FREE TO RETURN...
...TO MUTANT TOWN.
RYNNE, PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING ALL THIS.
I WILL BE IF YOU QUIT SHAKING ME, BURNE.
WHAT IN THE HELL?
WELL?
STOCKMAN, YOU BETTER NOT BE...
...BLUFFING!
UNFF!
FALL BACK!
FWOOMP
=COUGH= =COUGH=

CRAP! THEY'RE GONE!
SERGEANT WINTER! GRAB A TEAM AND GET AFTER THOSE DAMN--
NO :COUGH: COLONEL KNIGHT. I GAVE MY :COUGH: WORD.
LEAVE THEM.
WE HAD THEM IN OUR SIGHTS, SIR. YOU DIDN'T NEED TO LET THEM GO.
CAN'T DECIDE IF WHAT YOU JUST DID WAS BRAVE OR INSANE.
IT WAS NEITHER. I SIMPLY DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE THEM MARTYRS ON LIVE TV.
NOR :COUGH: BECOME ONE MYSELF.
SERGEANT WINTER, IT'S BEEN A HOT MINUTE.
I TAKE IT DARKWATER'S BACK IN THE MUTANT-FIGHTING BUSINESS?*
THAT'S... CLASSIFIED, DETECTIVE LEWIS.
I'LL BET IT IS.
*See TMNT Universe, Vol. 1, "The War to Come"--C.B.
NOT THAT IT'S GONNA REMAIN MUCH OF A SECRET AFTER OL' BURNE-Y BOY OVER THERE GETS DONE TELLIN' THE WHOLE WORLD WHAT JUST HAPPENED.
YOU KNOW, MAYBE IT'S JUST THE DETECTIVE IN ME, BUT THIS WHOLE INCIDENT STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN. YOU GUYS BEING IN THE MIX AGAIN, THOSE...
...MYSTERY TURTLES POPPIN' IN AND POPPIN' OUT SO EASILY, THE MAYOR'S SUDDEN CASE OF BENEVOLENCE...
...YOU MIGHT SAY SOMETHING'S FISHY IN DENMARK.
THAT'S A PRETTY BAD WOUND ON YOUR HEAD, DETECTIVE. YOU SHOULD HAVE A MEDIC CHECK IT OUT...
"...BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE."

DIMENSION X.
"OKAY, DADDY-O'S, THIS IS THE PLACE...
"...THE VOLCANIC ASTEROID.
"FORMER UTROM EMPIRE MILITARY BASE TURNED INTERGALACTIC SLASH INTERDIMENSIONAL WAY STATION...
"...AND HOME TO THE ONE AND ONLY BLASTORAMA PLEASUREDOME. FAVORITE HANGOUT OF CROOKS, CRIMINALS, AND NE'ER-DO-WELLS FROM ALL ACROSS DIMENSION X AND BEYOND."
IT'S A ROUGH JOINT, BUT IF WE WANNA FIND OUT WHERE THE NOVA POSSE ARE OPERATING THESE DAYS, THIS IS THE BEST PLACE TO LOOK FOR ANSWERS.
JUST MAKE SURE TO LET ME AND KALA DO ALL THE TALKING.
DOCKMASTER, THIS IS THE RESISTANCE ONE. REQUESTING PERMISSION TO DOCK. OVER.
THAT DEPENDS, RESISTANCE ONE. YOU HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS? OVER.
NEGATIVE. THIS IS STRICTLY A REST-AND-RELAXATION STOP.
YEAH. WE'VE GOT SOME LONG OVERDUE LEAVE TIME TO BURN, AND WE'RE JUST LOOKIN' TO ENGAGE IN A LITTLE TOMFOOLERY WITH FRIENDS AND STRANGERS BEFORE WE GOTTA GET BACK TO GRINDING FOR THE MAN. OVER.
WELL, YOU PICKED THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THAT. PERMISSION TO DOCK GRANTED...
...AND MAKE SURE YOU PAY YOUR TOLL BEFORE YOU LOSE ALL YOUR BLASTED CREDITS BETTIN' ON THE FIGHTS, OR THAT FANCY TIN CAN'S MINE...

"...DOCKMASTER OUT."
OKAY, SOON AS KALA GETS DONE *PAYING* THE TOLL--
FOURTEEN THOUSAND CREDITS TO DOCK IN *THIS* DUMP?! THAT'S A WEEK'S *SALARY* FOR ME!
NO. THAT'S TEN HOURS OF *DOCKING PRIVILEGES* FOR YOU.
--WE'RE GONNA SPLIT UP INTO *TWO* GROUPS. I'LL TAKE MIKEY TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANYONE WITH THE LATEST *INFO* ON THE NOVA POSSE.
AND KALA WILL TAKE LEO AND SAKI TO LOOK FOR *TRANSPORT* TO DIMENSION Z AND THAT *CHERUBAE* CHARACTER YOU'RE AFTER.
AND WHAT ABOUT *ME*, ZAK...
...WHICH GROUP SHOULD *I* JOIN FOR THE MISSION?
PRINCESS TRIB?
AWESOME!
NO. IT'S NOT.
"I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT--"


FOOT CLAN HEADQUARTERS.
--THOSE STUPID SPLINTER TURTLES ARE ALREADY GOING AGAINST THE PLAN!
YOU'RE STUPID, NATSU. HOW CAN IT BE THE SPLINTER CLAN IF HALF OF THEM AREN'T EVEN ON THE PLANET RIGHT NOW?
'CAUSE THERE'S MORE THAN FOUR NINJA TURTLES THESE DAYS, KOYA, THAT'S HOW.
THEN WHY ARE THEY WEARING THOSE WHITE MASKS? THOSE AREN'T THEIR COLORS.
DUH! TO HIDE THEIR REAL IDENTITIES! WHO'S STUPID NOW?
YOU'LL REGRET SAYING THAT WHEN I RIP OUT YOUR--
SILENCE!
...AND ALTHOUGH ARMED SECURITY FORCES WERE ABLE TO REACT QUICKLY TO THE MUTANT ATTACK...
...IT WAS MAYOR STOCKMAN WHO, DESPITE THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO HIS OWN LIFE, WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE THE MUTANTS TO RETREAT, THUS THWARTING ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE AT TONIGHT'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.
THIS IS BURNE THOMPSON, REPORTING LIVE FROM CITY HALL.
6
MUTANTS MENACE MAYOR
B. THOMPSON CHANNEL 8 NEWS
SO, UM... WHAT DO YOU THINK, KARAI?
I THINK YOU TWO WOULD DO WELL TO FOLLOW BLUDGEON'S EXAMPLE AND SPEAK ONLY WHEN SPOKEN TO BY YOUR MASTER.
I AM RETIRING TO MY CHAMBERS. DO NOT DISTURB ME.
SPEAKING OF BLUDGEON...

"...WHERE IS THAT STUPID FISH?"
WOULDJA LOOK AT THAT?
NORTH BROTHER ISLAND.
WE GOT RIKERS TO ONE SIDE OF US AND NEW YORK CITY TO THE OTHER.
WE'RE LITERALLY SURROUNDED BY PRISONS.
BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT. 'CAUSE HERE WE STAND IN A NEW, FREE HOME!
MORE LIKE AN OLD, CREEPY-AS-HELL HOME.
SEEING THIS PLACE ON THE INTERNET'S ONE THING, BUT SCOUTING IT IN PERSON?
I WAS STARTING TO THINK I WAS GOING TO END UP A FINAL GIRL FOR A LITTLE BIT BACK THERE.
FINAL GIRLS!
IT SPOOKY HERE, DADA.
MAYBE A LITTLE, MUSHROOM. BUT NOT AS SPOOKY AS LIVING WITH THE MEAN HUMANS.
LINDSEY HUMAN.
YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT, ZANNA. SHE IS.
FOR NOW, AT LEAST.
DADA... WHAT WE DO IF MEAN HUMANS FIND US?
YEAH, FLEABAG. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF THEY FIND YOU HERE?

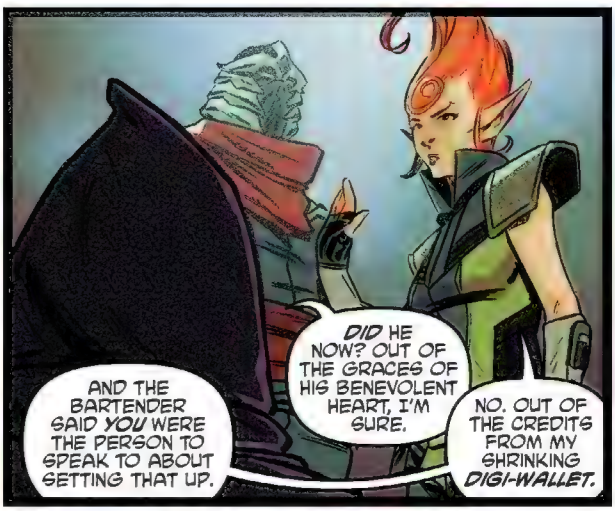
I MEAN, AIN'T LIKE IT WAS TOO HARD.
SPEAK FOR... YOURSELF... SIR.
"YOU CAN'T BE HERE!"

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE UNOFFICIAL!
WHICH MEANS YOU... YOU CAN'T BE HERE, YOUR HIGHNESS!
BUT I AM HERE, ZAK.
AND SINCE MY PARENTS BELIEVE I'M AWAY ATTENDING MY MONTHLY AMBASSADORSHIP TRAINING ON PLANET BALARAPHON, MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS MISSION IS NOT ON ANY OFFICIAL ROYAL RECORD AND, THEREFORE, UNOFFICIAL.
I... WHAT? NO! THAT'S NOT HOW THIS WORKS!
UM, ZAK... CAN I SAY SOMETH--
NOT NOW, MIKEY!
LOOK, PRINCESS. YOU JUST BEING HERE MAKES THIS MISSION OFFICIAL. AND IF CHANCELLOR MAZOOL CATCHES EVEN A WHIFF THAT YOU'RE HELPING US LOOK FOR THE NOVA POSSE, WELL... ALL DUE RESPECT, YOUR HIGHNESS... ALL HELL'S GONNA BREAK LOOSE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT PAST COMMANDER DASK TO STOW AWAY ON THIS SHIP, AND I REALLY DON'T WANNA KNOW. ALL THAT MATTERS NOW IS GETTING YOU BACK HOME BEFORE THIS TURNS INTO A DIPLOMATIC NIGHTMARE ON A GALACTIC SCALE.
NO.
WHAT?
I SAID, NO, I WILL NOT BE RETURNING HOME. WE NEUTRINOS ARE ETERNALLY INDEBTED TO OUR FRIENDS FROM PLANET EARTH, WHO HAVE HELPED SAVE OUR PLANET FROM DESTRUCTION MORE THAN ONCE.
I FULLY INTEND TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO BEGIN REPAYING THAT DEBT BY HELPING THEM TO SAVE THEIRS... UNOFFICIALLY, OF COURSE.
FINE. YOU WIN. BUT PLEASE LOSE YOUR WEAPON AND PUT ON THIS CLOAK.
AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT TAKE OFF THE HOOD.
HM. IS THIS THE ONLY COLOR YOU HAVE? OH, NEVER MIND.
NOW...
"... SHALL WE REJOIN THE OTHERS?"
WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY BEFORE WAS DON'T FREAK OUT SO MUCH, DUDE.
I'LL TOTALLY HELP YOU TAKE CARE OF THE PRINCESS.
PLEASE... KILL ME NOW.

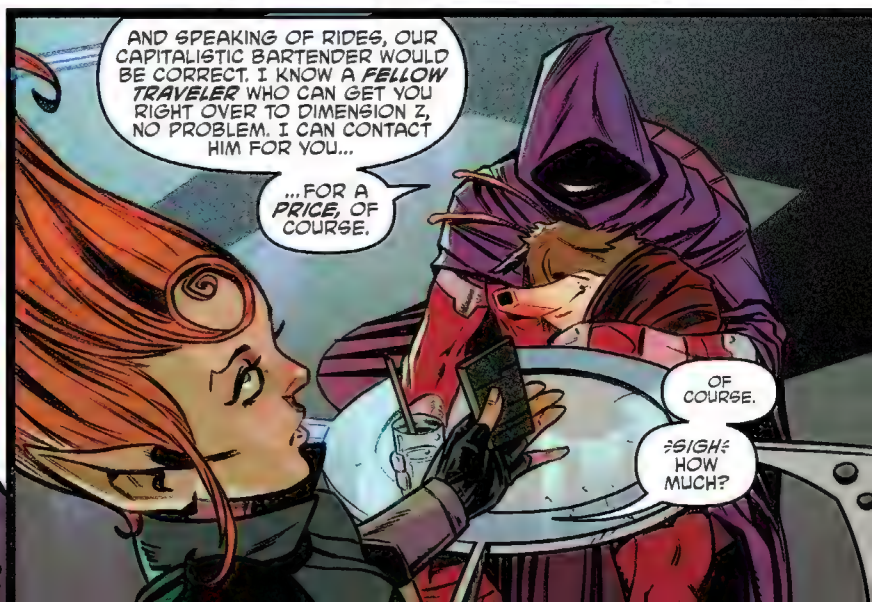
KILL HIM!
KRAK
"WELCOME TO THE SMASHARINO ARENA.

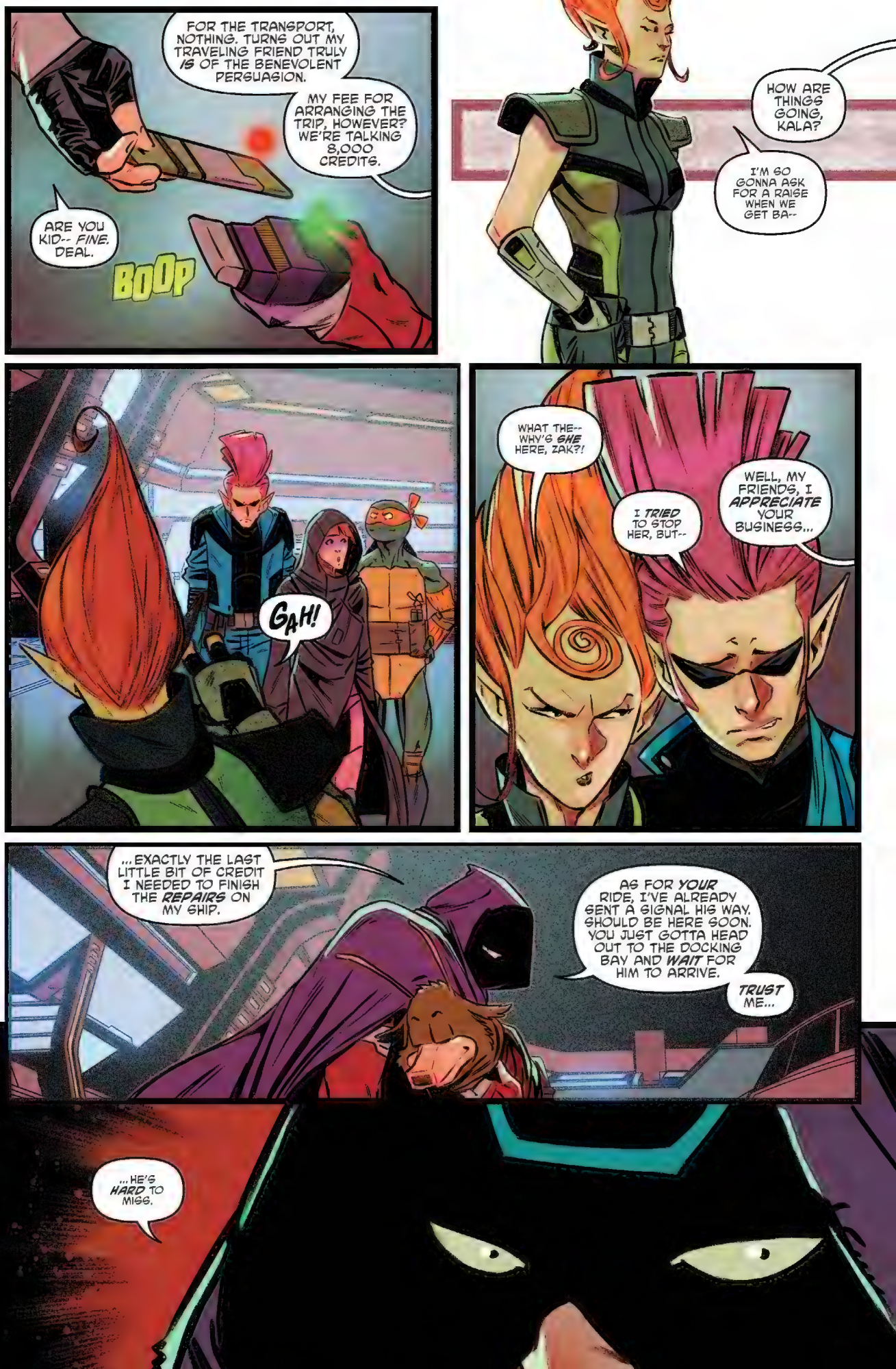
"WHERE, ON ANY GIVEN VISIT, YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR TEETH, YOUR MONEY, YOUR MIND..."

...OR ALL OF THE ABOVE.
SO. WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR, STRANGERS?
WE ARE SEEKING TRANSPORT TO DIMENSION Z, AND--


AND THE BARTENDER SAID YOU WERE THE PERSON TO SPEAK TO ABOUT SETTING THAT UP.
DID HE NOW? OUT OF THE GRACES OF HIS BENEVOLENT HEART, I'M SURE.
NO. OUT OF THE CREDITS FROM MY SHRINKING DIGI-WALLET.

HA!
YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHO'S GONNA TAKE YOU FOR A RIDE IN THIS PLACE!


AND SPEAKING OF RIDES, OUR CAPITALISTIC BARTENDER WOULD BE CORRECT. I KNOW A FELLOW TRAVELER WHO CAN GET YOU RIGHT OVER TO DIMENSION Z, NO PROBLEM. I CAN CONTACT HIM FOR YOU...
...FOR A PRICE, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE.
SIGH
HOW MUCH?


FOR THE TRANSPORT, NOTHING. TURNS OUT MY TRAVELING FRIEND TRULY *IS* OF THE BENEVOLENT PERSUASION.
MY FEE FOR ARRANGING THE TRIP, HOWEVER? WE'RE TALKING 8,000 CREDITS.
ARE YOU KID-- *FINE.* DEAL.
BOOP
HOW ARE THINGS GOING, KALA?
I'M SO GONNA ASK FOR A RAISE WHEN WE GET BA--
GAH!
WHAT THE-- WHY'S ***SHE*** HERE, ZAK?!
I ***TRIED*** TO STOP HER, BUT--
WELL, MY FRIENDS, I ***APPRECIATE*** YOUR BUSINESS...
...EXACTLY THE LAST LITTLE BIT OF CREDIT I NEEDED TO FINISH THE ***REPAIRS*** ON MY SHIP.
AS FOR ***YOUR*** RIDE, I'VE ALREADY SENT A SIGNAL HIS WAY. SHOULD BE HERE SOON. YOU JUST GOTTA HEAD OUT TO THE DOCKING BAY AND ***WAIT*** FOR HIM TO ARRIVE.
TRUST ME...
...HE'S ***HARD*** TO MISS.

HERE! TAKE THIS!
WHA--
WE'VE GOT A RUNNER!
I'M ON HIM, RAVE!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, COMMANDER!
WELL...
...LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND THE NOVA POSSE.
CoOo

FREEDOM ONE! THIS IS COMMANDER AZUL.
THE MARK IS LOOSE, AND RAVE AND I ARE IN PURSUIT!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADING TO THE REPAIR BAY!
NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT, COMMANDER...
...ME AND TRIP GOT THIS OL' GIRL READY TO SCRAMBLE SHOULD OUR RUNNER GET LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET PAST EXEEN AND GROTTO.
COPY THAT, ZEBULON.
EXEEN...
...HOW'S YOUR RECON GOING?
WE STILL WATCHING. WE STILL WAITING.
WE READY.
ROGER!

THERE HE IS!

HE'S DANGER-CLOSE TO THE REPAIR BAY!

EXEEN, HE'S MOVING THROUGH THE SHIPPING CONTAINERS...

...TOWARD YOU AND GROTTO.

C'MON, C'MON...

WE UP, GROTTO.

FREEZE!

OH... DAMN.

WE'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED!

STAND DOWN!

DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID!

PLEASE.

DO STUPID.

GRAH!

SWOOSH

LOOK OUT!

WHOA!

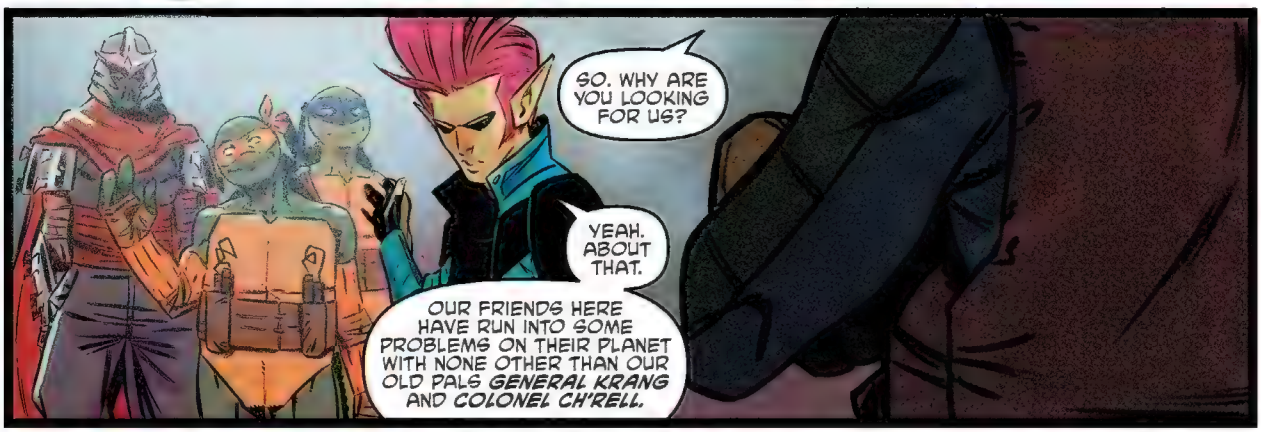
KLANG

YOU OKAY, COMMANDER?
I'M GOOD.
DUPED US WITH A HOLOGRAM. SO WHERE IS HE REA--
SHOOM
"THERE HE GOES..."
...NO WAY THE FREEDOM ONE INTERCEPTS HIM NOW.
DAMMIT!
HE ESCAPED AGAIN!
WHO ESCAPED AGAIN, COMMANDER AZUL?
ZAK?

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, COMMANDER.
YOU TOO. BUT...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ACTUALLY, LOOKING FOR YOU AND YOUR CREW. LOOKS LIKE WE CAUGHT YOU AT BAD TIME, THOUGH.
WHO WAS THAT GUY?

THAT WAS THE INFAMOUS TORBIN ZIXX.
WE MET HIM INSIDE. HE SAID HE WAS A TRAVELER.
NO. HE'S A BIG-TIME SMUGGLER. AND HE'S THE POSSE'S LATEST BOUNTY.
SMUGGLER? WHAT'S HE SMUGGLING?

THAT... AND SOME OTHERS JUST LIKE IT.
VERY RARE. EXTREMELY VALUABLE.


SO. WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR US?
YEAH. ABOUT THAT.
OUR FRIENDS HERE HAVE RUN INTO SOME PROBLEMS ON THEIR PLANET WITH NONE OTHER THAN OUR OLD PALS GENERAL KRANG AND COLONEL CH'RELL.

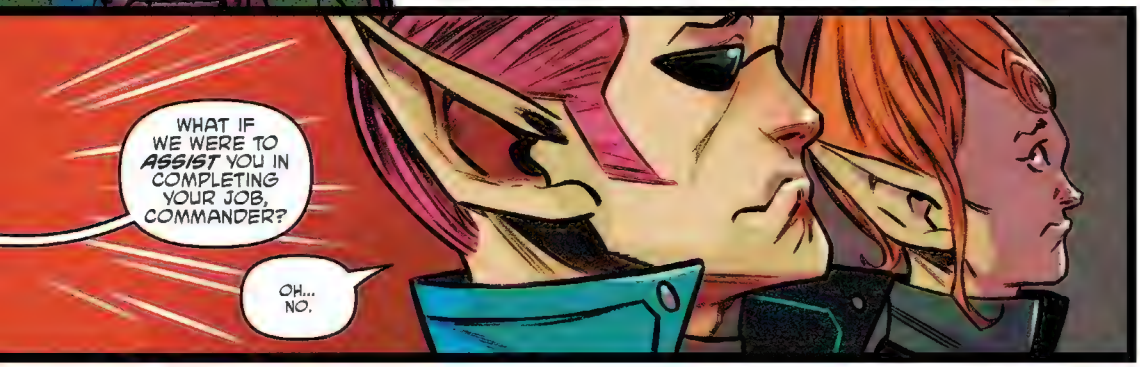
AND CONSIDERING YOUR PAST DEALINGS WITH THOSE TWO UTROM PSYCHOS, THEY WERE HOPING YOUR CREW MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP SQUASH THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.
HM. INTERESTING.

I KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE.
YOU... YOU DO?
ABSOLUTELY. ANY DIMENSION X SOLDIER WORTH THEIR *SALT* KNOWS YOUR HISTORY.

GLORIOUS HEROES OF KRANG WAR!
IT'S TRULY AN *HONOR* TO MEET YOU IN PERSON.
THANKS. SAME HERE.

WHICH MAKES IT THAT MUCH *HARDER* TO TELL YOU NO.
WE'D LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO HELP YOU STOMP KRANG AND CH'RELL LIKE THE DISGUSTING BUGS THEY ARE, BUT WE'VE STILL GOT A *JOB* TO DO HERE.
AND WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO *QUIT* BEFORE IT'S FINISHED.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT CATCHING THAT ZIXX GUY?
YES. WE'VE BEEN AFTER HIM FOR A WHILE NOW. BASICALLY STAKED OUR REPUTATIONS AS BOUNTY HUNTERS ON SUCCESSFULLY *CAPTURING* HIM.
AND DESPITE TODAY'S LITTLE STUMBLE, THIS IS THE *CLOSEST* WE'VE EVER BEEN TO FINALLY MAKING IT HAPPEN.
THE COMMANDER'S RIGHT. WE *CAN'T* STOP NOW.

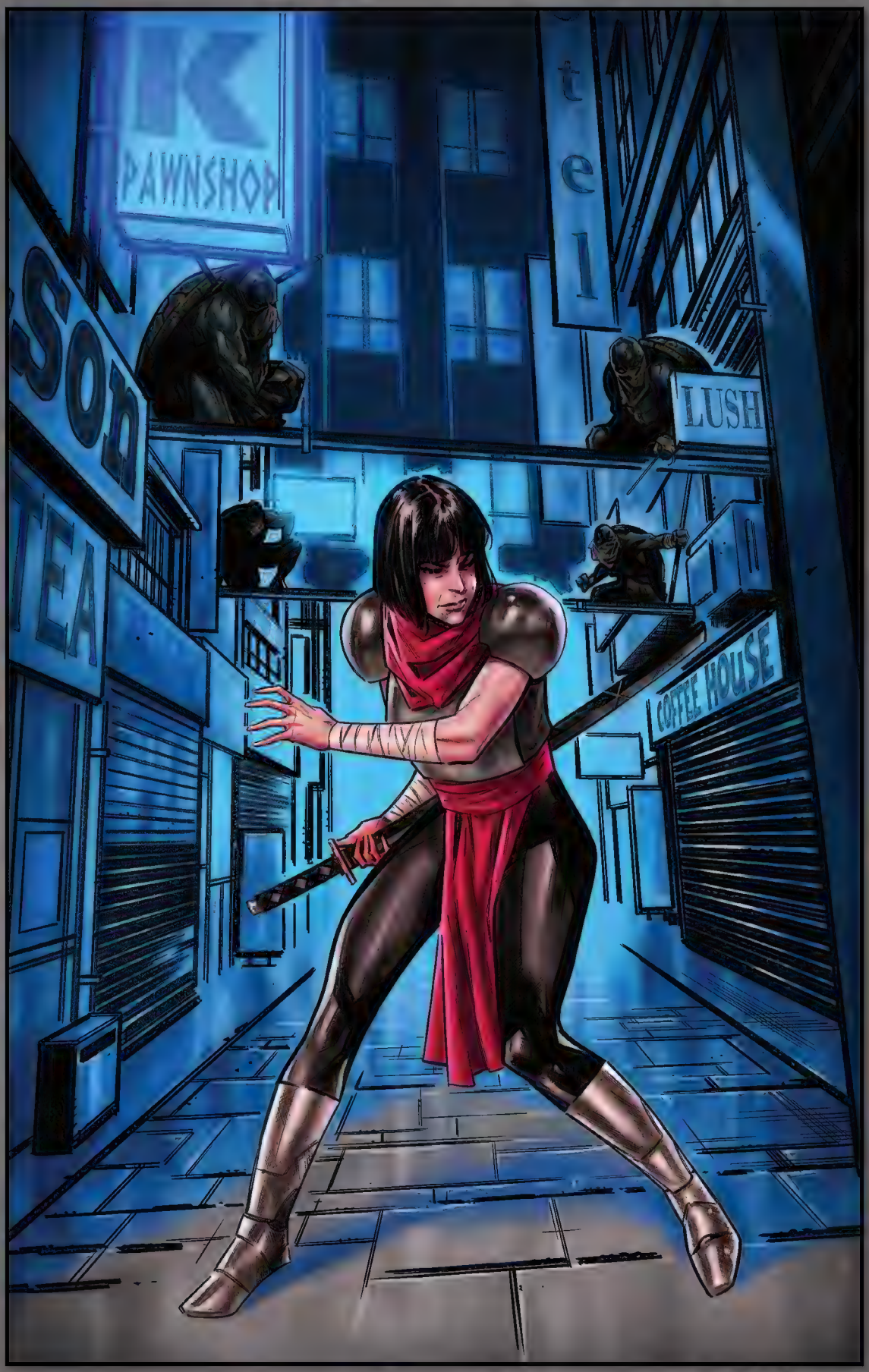

WHAT IF WE WERE TO *ASSIST* YOU IN COMPLETING YOUR JOB, COMMANDER?
OH... NO.

IF WE WERE TO HELP YOU *CAPTURE* THIS NOTORIOUS SMUGGLER, WOULD YOU IN TURN BE WILLING TO JOIN OUR EARTH FRIENDS IN *VANQUISHING* GENERAL KRANG AND COLONEL CH'RELL ON THEIR PLANET?
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE... STOP.

WHAT DO YOU ALL THINK? TOO RISKY?
MAYBE. BUT WE REALLY *COULD* USE SOME HELP CATCHING THAT SLIPPERY TOAD ZIXX.
CATCH ZIXX. KILL UTROMS. *ALL* GOOD.
OKAY, WE'RE IN. JUST LIKE YOU PROPOSED.
FIRST ZIXX, THEN KRANG AND CH'RELL, MISS...
NOT MISS.
NO, NO, NO, NO...
PRINCESS TRIB OF PLANET NEUTRINO.
BY THE CREATOR...
"...THIS DAY JUST GETS *CRAZIER* AND *CRAZIER*."
MICHELANGELO?
REMAIN HERE WITH THE NEUTRINOS. ASSIST THE NOVA POSSE IN THEIR TASK, AND THEN RETURN WITH THEM TO EARTH AS *QUICKLY* AS POSSIBLE.
UM... OKAY. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU AND LEO?
LEONARDO AND I WILL BE *DEPARTING* FOR DIMENSION Z NOW...

"...IT APPEARS OUR TRANSPORTATION HAS ARRIVED."
HOWDY! I'M CUDLEY THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL COWLICK.
DID SOMEBODY CALL FOR A RIDE?

art by SOPHIE CAMPBELL



THE ALLIANCE #1

art by ROI MERCADO
colors by WILLIAM SORRES

OROKU KARAI.
YOU'VE DONE MUCH FOR THE FOOT CLAN. YOU'VE AMASSED WEALTH. AND POWER. AND YET...
...YOU ARE A DISAPPOINTMENT.
WHAT?!
YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE ONLY EVER BEEN A BYPRODUCT OF FOLLOWING ORDERS.
YOU WASTE YOUR OWN POTENTIAL, GRANDDAUGHTER. AN UNFORGIVABLE SIN.
THOSE OF MY BLOOD MUST SHOW THAT THEY CAN LEAD ON THEIR OWN--OR ELSE THEY MUST DIE!

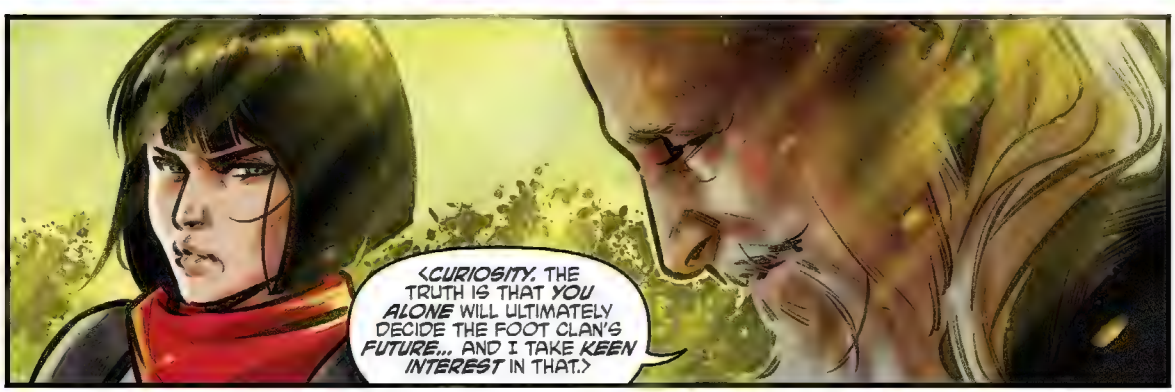
KIYAA!!
SHOSSs
<I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE AIR DID TO OFFEND YOU-->
<--BUT I BELIEVE YOU TAUGHT IT A LESSON.>*
EH?
*Translated from Japanese
<FORGIVE ME. I AM MASATO.>
<IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, OROKU KARAI.>
<HIS MANNER. HIS SPEECH. THIS MUST BE A DREAM.>
<THAT MAKES SENSE. OROKU SAKI WOULD NEVER HAVE LAUNCHED SUCH A CLUMSY ATTACK.>
<ARE YOU A GHOST, MASATO?>
<PERHAPS A GODLING, LIKE KITSUNE? WHY DO YOU VISIT MY DREAMS?>

<I'M NOTHING LIKE KITSUNE.>
<A GHOST, THEN. I'VE MET YOUR LIKE BEFORE.>
<YES, YOUR "GRANDFATHER" VISITED YOUR DREAMS BEFORE HIS RESURRECTION, DIDN'T HE? I'M SORRY IF THIS IS TOO COMMON AN OCCURRENCE FOR YOU.>

<OROKU SAKI CAME TO ME BECAUSE WE ARE CONNECTED THROUGH BLOOD. YOU ARE A STRANGER. WHY DO YOU HAUNT ME?>

<BUT WE DO SHARE A CONNECTION, KARAI.>
<IT WAS MY LIFE'S WORK TO TEACH THE NINJAS OF THE FOOT CLAN. YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS ONE OF MY BEST STUDENTS, IN HIS FIRST LIFE.>
<GOOD ENOUGH TO KILL ME, IN FACT. BUT I BEAR NO GRUDGE.>

<THAT DOES NOT ANSWER MY QUESTION, SPIRIT.>
<THE AFTERLIFE AFFORDS LIMITLESS IDLE TIME. THE DEAD USE THAT TIME TO WATCH THE LIVING. AND SINCE YOU FIRST DELVED INTO THE ASHI NO HIMITSU, I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU.>
<TO WHAT END?>


<CURIOSITY. THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU ALONE WILL ULTIMATELY DECIDE THE FOOT CLAN'S FUTURE... AND I TAKE KEEN INTEREST IN THAT.>

<YOU SEEK TO INFLUENCE MY DECISIONS.>
<NOTHING SO DIRECT. AS I SAID, I AM NO GODLING. BUT I DO WISH TO URGE CAUTION.>
<YOU REBUILT THE CLAN IN SAKI'S IMAGE. YOU HAD POWER AND WEALTH, AND YOU TURNED IT ALL OVER TO HIM THE SECOND HE WAS RESURRECTED.>
<SOME MAY CALL THAT HONOR, BUT I INSTEAD SEE THE FEAR OF ONE WHO PREFERS ONLY TO SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SHORT TERM.>
<THE FOOT CLAN IS DESTINED TO SHAPE THE WORLD, AND IF IT IS TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO SO PROPERLY, YOU MUST SHED SUCH FEARS.>
FWSSS
<--SO I WILL PROVIDE PROOF.>
<DENIAL SERVES NO ONE, OROKU KARAI-->
<I WAS WRONG. THIS DREAM IS NO VISITATION.
NO MASTER OF THE FOOT CLAN WOULD SOUND SO MUCH LIKE A PSYCHO-ANALYST.>

BEFORE MY GRANDFATHER WAS RESURRECTED, HIS GHOST VISITED ME IN A DREAM. HE INSTRUCTED ME, PLACING ME FIRMLY ON THE PATH I AM ON TODAY.
SINCE THEN, I HAVE SEEN GODS, YES, AND MONSTERS. ALIEN BEINGS. MUTANTS AND DEMONS.
BUT I HAVE NOT, TILL THIS POINT, BEEN VISITED BY ANOTHER GHOST.
I DO NOT CONSIDER IT A GOOD OMEN.
PTING

MUTANT TURTLES ATTACK MAYOR STOCKMAN.
THESE ARE NOT THE TURTLES. THE ILLUSION IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT THEIR MOVES ARE STIFF. GRACELESS.
EVEN THE IDIOT IN THE ORANGE MASK IS MORE COMPETENT THAN THOSE IN THIS VIDEO.
IT IS AN *OBVIOUS* RUSE.
AND YET, THE *TIMING...*
FIRST, KITSUNE WARNS GRANDFATHER OF *THE GAME*, A COMPETITION BETWEEN HER GODLIKE FAMILY THAT THE FOOT CLAN AND THE TURTLES BOTH HAVE BEEN DRAWN INTO.
NEXT, THE GHOST OF ONE OF THE FOOT'S ANCIENT TEACHERS VISITS ME IN MY DREAMS, WORRIED FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CLAN. AND NOW *THIS?*
TOO MUCH FOR MERE *COINCIDENCE.*
TOSHIRO WOULD TELL ME TO MEDITATE ON THIS. LOOK FOR THE REASON THESE THINGS CAME INTO MY LIFE AT THE SAME TIME.
BUT MEDITATION HAS NEVER COME TO ME AS EASILY AS I WOULD LIKE. MY MIND IS NOT QUIET.
IT'S BEEN EVEN *LESS* QUIET AS OF LATE. THE ONLY WAY I CAN *TRULY* FOCUS--

--IS TO MOVE.
I FIND MYSELF THINKING ABOUT WHAT MASATO SAID.
"FEARFUL," HE CALLED ME... AND THE MOST MADDENING PART IS THAT I CAN'T ENTIRELY DISAGREE.
MY CONTROL OF THE FOOT CLAN HAS ONLY COME AT THE WHIMS OF OTHERS, AND I HAVE ACCEPTED THAT.
THE SHREDDER EXPECTS HIS ORDERS TO BE CARRIED OUT, EVEN AFTER SEVERING TIES WITH THE CLAN... THE TURTLES DEMAND A TRUCE AND PRESENT ME WITH THEIR TERMS... AND IN BOTH CASES, I SIMPLY AGREE WITHOUT CHALLENGE.
IS THAT WHAT MASATO WAS WORRIED ABOUT? THAT I WOULD DO WHAT MY FATHER COULD NOT AND PUT AN END TO THE FOOT THROUGH POOR DECISIONS?

NO. THIS IS RIDICULOUS. I AM MORE THAN WORTHY AND HAVE PROVEN MYSELF A THOUSAND TIMES OVER.
I ONLY NEED TO REMIND MYSELF THAT--
FWSSSS
WHAT?
YOU MISSED.
THERE ARE MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, DONATELLO.
INTERESTING. IN A CITY THIS SIZE, EVEN IF I WERE HUNTING YOU, THE CHANCES OF US MEETING LIKE THIS ARE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
TELL ME, TURTLES... DO YOU BELIEVE IN FATE?
THAT'S THE DUMBEST QUESTION I'VE EVER HEARD.
LET'S TAKE HER DOWN AND BE DONE WITH IT.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY!
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU FOR *BLOCKS*. WE KNEW WHAT YOU WERE IMMEDIATELY.
YEAH. A FOOT NINJA. WITH THE REP YOU GUYS HAVE, YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN US COMING.
MAYBE THE FOOT AREN'T THE *THREAT* WE THOUGHT YOU WERE... BUT YOU'RE STILL A THREAT.
AND WE TAKE CARE OF THREATS IN *THIS* CITY!

THEIR BRAVADO, AT LEAST, MATCHES THE TONE OF YOSHI'S TURTLES... BUT THEIR AWKWARD FORM?

IT'S GOOD THE RAT IS NOT ALIVE TO SEE SUCH AN EMBARRASSING DISPLAY.

WATCH OUT!

BUT STILL, EVENTUALLY THEY WILL DECIDE TO ATTACK ME AS A GROUP, AND A GROUP OF INCOMPETENTS CAN STILL BE A DANGER.

THE SMART THING TO DO WOULD BE TO ***VANISH.*** THEY DON'T HAVE THE SKILL TO FOLLOW.

KRAKK

BUT NO. I CRAVE A DIFFERENT KIND OF MEDITATION NOW. THE KIND YOU FIND ONLY IN BATTLE.

AND THESE FOUR CAN PROVIDE THAT.

BUT FIRST, I'LL NEED A WEAPON TO EVEN THE ODDS.

BEFORE WE CONTINUE, I MUST THANK YOU.

YOU FOUR COULD NOT HAVE COME ALONG AT A BETTER TIME.

I WAS QUESTIONING MY PLACE IN LIFE. A MISTAKE I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD MAKE.

THWAK

A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE MIGHT AS WELL BE A ***DEATH SENTENCE*** TO A WARRIOR.

INDEED, IF I HADN'T BEEN SO FOCUSED ON MY THOUGHTS, YOU FOUR AMATEURS WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET SO CLOSE TO ME... BUT AGAIN, I'M GLAD YOU DID.

A LITTLE FIGHT WAS ALL I REALLY NEEDED TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

NOW, BEFORE I DECIDE WHETHER TO KILL YOU ALL OR NOT...

...ONE OF YOU WILL TELL ME ABOUT THE ATTACK ON BAXTER STOCK--

WHOK

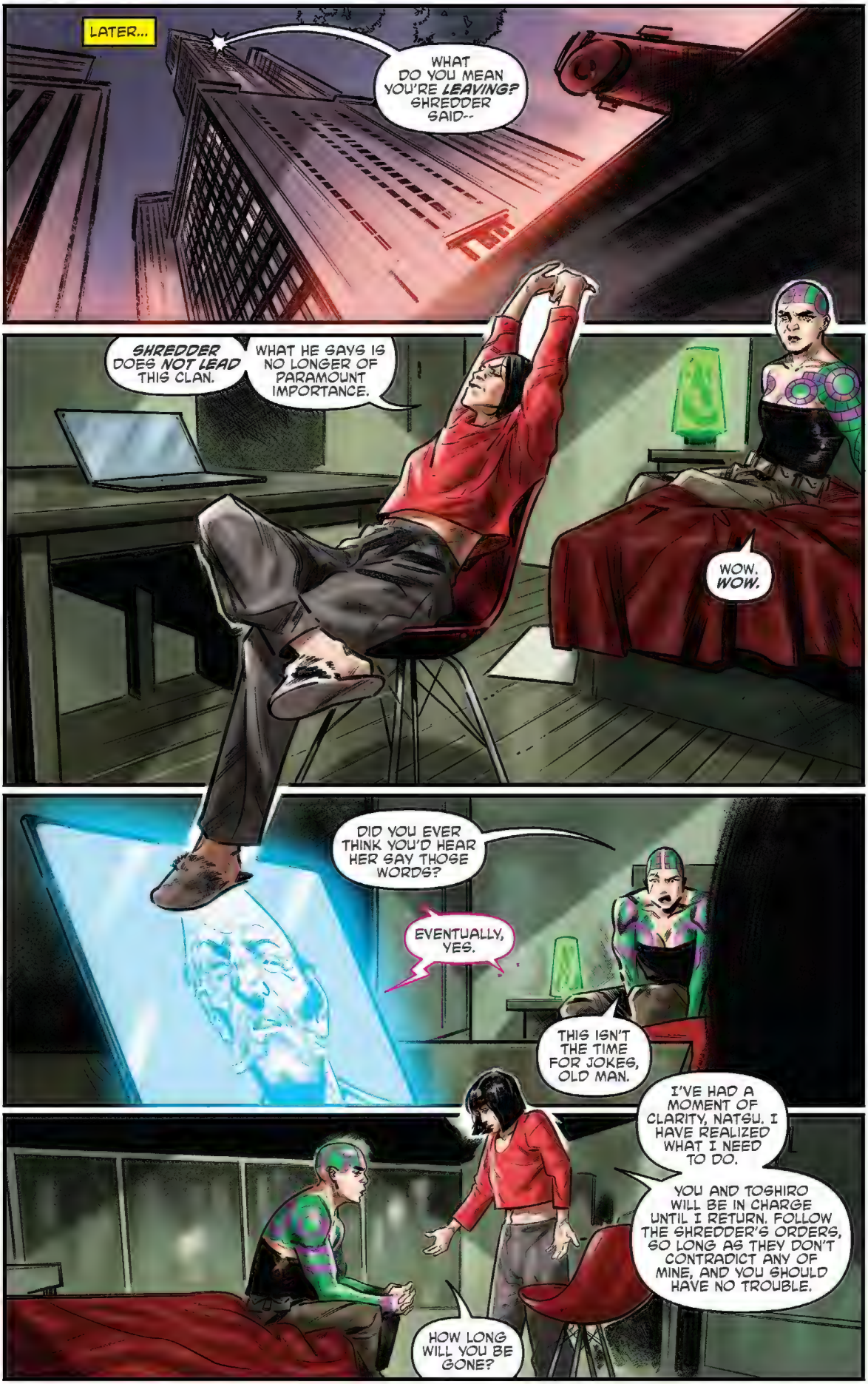
MUGHH!
I WANT MY WEAPON BACK!
UGGGHHH!
DAMN IT ALL. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TAKE MY EYES OFF ONE OF THEM.
THIS IS WHY ONE IS TAUGHT TO AVOID FIGHTING GROUPS.
STILL... EVERY OBSTACLE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRACTICE AND IMPROVEMENT.
KIYAAAI!
YOU FLIPPED US AROUND! THAT MEANS I'LL--
KYAAM

YOU'RE BETTER THAN US. I'M MAN ENOUGH TO ADMIT THAT.
BUT WE STILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF NUMBERS...
AND NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ARE...
...YOUR ATTENTION CAN ONLY BE SPLIT FOR SO LONG...
...BEFORE YOU LEAVE US AN OPENING!
NGH!

AND NOW--
URRRK...
KR-RUNCH!
IF YOU HAD BEEN MORE *COMPETENT*--
HYAH!
--THAT BLOW WOULD HAVE *ENDED* ME.
BUT YOU FOUR DON'T TRULY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
YOU'RE NOT BREATHING PROPERLY--NO, I CORRECT MYSELF--YOU'RE HOLDING YOUR BREATH AS YOU FIGHT.
YOU'RE AFRAID.
AT LEAST YOU ARE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT YOU SHOULD BE.

AND NOW, ABOUT STOCKMAN...
THE POLICE!
WE DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THEM RIGHT NOW. TURTLES, FALL BACK!
"FALL BACK"? NINJAS VANISH.
I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN, IMPOSTORS... AND NEXT TIME, YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY.
BREEEEAAA
KILL THE SIREN.
SQUOINK
BREEUUW

I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING, KEYSTONE. DID YOU SEE SOMETHING?
I THINK IT WAS A TRICK OF THE LIGHT, LIN. THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
MAYBE.
BUT WE GOT THREE CALLS ABOUT A FIGHT, AND TWO OF THOSE CALLS THOUGHT THEY SAW THE MUTANTS WHO ATTACKED THE MAYOR.
WELL, SURE, THERE'S A REWARD OUT. WE'VE GOTTEN HUNDREDS OF TIPS TODAY, ALL LEADING TO NOTHING. I'M WILLING TO BET THIS IS NOTHING, TOO.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, KEYSTONE?
BECAUSE I'LL BE HAPPY TO TAKE THAT BET.


LATER...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE *LEAVING?* SHREDDER SAID--
SHREDDER DOES *NOT LEAD* THIS CLAN.
WHAT HE SAYS IS NO LONGER OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.
WOW. *WOW.*
DID YOU EVER THINK YOU'D HEAR HER SAY THOSE WORDS?
EVENTUALLY, YES.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR JOKES, OLD MAN.
I'VE HAD A MOMENT OF CLARITY, NATSU. I HAVE REALIZED WHAT I NEED TO DO.
YOU AND TOSHIRO WILL BE IN CHARGE UNTIL I RETURN. FOLLOW THE SHREDDER'S ORDERS, SO LONG AS THEY DON'T CONTRADICT ANY OF MINE, AND YOU SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE.
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE GONE?

I WILL RETURN BEFORE THIS GAME OF THE RAT KING'S ADVANCES MUCH FURTHER.
I'M GOING TO SEEK *ALLIANCES*, NATSU, AND BUILD A *NEW FOUNDATION* FOR THE CLAN.
AND YOU WANT TO DO THAT *NOW?* ISN'T THAT A LITTLE RISKY?
A GOOD LEADER MUST ACCEPT BOTH RESPONSIBILITY *AND* RISK IN THE SERVICE OF HER CLAN.
BUILDING NEW ALLIANCES AND MENDING *OLD* ONES ARE TASKS I'VE IGNORED FOR TOO LONG.
DO YOU WANT US TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE TURTLES?
THEY ATTACKED THE MAYOR IN PUBLIC, AND STOCKMAN IS AWARE OF OUR CONNECTION.
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT COULD COME BACK TO HAUNT US.
THOSE WERE NOT THE TURTLES WE KNOW, AND I SUSPECT THE MAYOR KNOWS THIS.
BUT STILL, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT COULD COME BACK TO HAUNT US, SO BE WARY.
GREAT. *MORE* MUTANTS.
THERE ARE JUST *TOO MANY* OF THEM OUT THERE. IF I EVER TURN INTO ANYTHING ELSE, SOMEBODY JUST SHOOT ME.
SO NOTED.

UM... I WAS KIDDING? TELL ME YOU KNOW I WAS KIDDING.
I KNOW.
OKAY, NOW *YOU'RE* MAKING JOKES. THIS IS SCARING ME.
ARE BODY SNATCHERS A REAL THING?

DON'T BE SCARED. JUST DO WHAT I ASK AND TEND TO OUR BUSINESS.
I SHOULDN'T BE AWAY LONG.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ALONE, RIGHT?

NO, OLD FRIEND, I'M NOT.
NATSU, HAVE BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY MEET ME AT THE TRAINING COMPOUND.
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BRING THOSE IDIOTS WITH YOU?
THEY'RE IDIOTS, BUT THEY'RE LOYAL. AS ARE YOU AND TOSHIRO...

...AND LOYALTY IS A FIRE I AM KEEN TO FEED.

AN HOUR LATER, AT THE FOOT CLAN'S TRAINING FACILITY IN QUEENS...
K-THUNG
K-THUNG
OKAY, THIS JUST ISN'T AS MUCH FUN OF A WORKOUT AS IT USED TO BE.
YEAH. BUT IT STILL BEATS DOIN' SQUATS. HOW LONG DO WE GOTTA WAIT FOR?
THE WAIT IS OVER.
SOMEONE OUGHTA PUT A BELL ON HER...
SHH. SHE'LL HEAR YOU.
UH... HEY, BOSS LADY! YOU WANTED TO SEE US?
YES.
YOU NEED SOMETHIN' BROKE?
ACTUALLY, MY DESIRE IS TO BUILD.

UHHH... YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT WE DO, RIGHT?
YEAH. MAYBE YOU MEANT TO CALL THE CRABBY BIRD OR THAT ZEN SHARK...
I DID NOT.
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THIS BECAUSE I TRUST YOU: THE FOOT CLAN IS GOING TO CHANGE THE WAY IT DOES BUSINESS, AND WE'RE GOING TO BE MORE POWERFUL THAN WE HAVE EVER BEEN.
WE WILL FULFILL OUR VOW TO PROTECT THIS CITY, BUT WE WILL DO IT IN A WAY THAT GRANDFATHER NEVER COULD.
WE WILL BUILD AND ENHANCE ALLIANCES THROUGH MUTUAL PROFIT, RESPECT, OR FEAR...
...AND THROUGH THOSE ALLIANCES, WE WILL EXERT ABSOLUTE CONTROL.
THE PEOPLE WILL BE PROTECTED, AND WE WILL THRIVE.
STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU NEED US, BOSS.
YEAH. THOUGH I DO LIKE THE PART ABOUT PROFIT.
I WANT YOU TO JOIN ME WHILE I REACH OUT TO THOSE I WANT TO ALLY WITH MORE CLOSELY.
HELP ME FIND THEM AND PROVIDE MUSCLE IF NECESSARY.
THAT WE CAN DO.
BUT, UH, SO COULD KOYA AND BLUDGEON. WHY'D YOU ASK US?

I'M NOT SURE YET IF I CAN TRUST THEM TO SUBSCRIBE TO MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE.
I WILL FIND OUT IN DUE TIME, BUT FIRST I WANT TO START WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR CASEY JONES.

art by ARIEL MEDEL
colors by CANDICE HAN FEI YE

art by FERO PE

ISSUE #134

HEY, OUT THERE, MUTANT TOWN. MONA LISA HERE WITH A SPECIAL EVENING UPDATE, 'CAUSE THINGS ARE BANANAS OUT THERE RIGHT NOW.
"THE ATTACK ON MAYOR STOCKMAN HAS KICKED OFF THE WORST UNREST MUTANT TOWN'S SEEN SINCE THE MUTANIMALS WERE RUNNING THINGS.
AW RAY WAS RIGHT!
I STAND WITH SPLINT CLAN
TURTLES ARE NOCENT
MUTANDKIND MUST UNITE
"YOU'VE GOT FOLKS WHO BELIEVE THE FOUR WHITE-MASKED TURTLES ARE HEROES BRAVE ENOUGH TO FINALLY STICK IT TO STOCKMAN...
"...AND PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IT'S ALL JUST A TACTIC ORCHESTRATED BY THE POWERS THAT BE TO DIVIDE US."
SOUP KITCHEN
+COMMUNITY CENTER

COMMUNITY
COME ON, YOU GUYS HAD TO TRASH THE SOUP KITCHEN?!
"WHICHEVER SIDE YOU'RE ON, THOUGH, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS AREN'T THRILLED WITH ACTING CONSTABLE JENNIKA."
DAMN IT.
WE GOTTA SHOW HUMANS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL WHAT WE REALLY THINK OF BEING KEPT PRISONER HERE!
AND DON'T LISTEN TO THE NEW CONSTABLE. SHE'S IN ON IT! SHE'S NOT ONE OF OUR TURTLES!
YEAH!
HEY, THERE SHE IS!
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!
NO, I'M-- I'M TRYING TO KEEP YOU GUYS SAFE!

WHEW... I AM NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS...

OH, JAY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
HIDING, SAME AS YOU!

SOME PEOPLE WERE CHASING US 'CAUSE THEY SAW MY SPLINTER CLAN SHIRT AND THEN FLIPPED OUT WHEN I SAID THOSE OTHER TURTLES ARE FAKE.
THAT'S CRAZY. WHO'S YOUR FRIEND HERE?

JEFF, RIGHT? HE HELPED ME GET AWAY.
NICE TO MEET YOU, JEFF.
BREEP BREEP

HEY, SHEENA, EVERYTHING OKAY?
NO!

THERE'S A MOB HERE, AND THEY'RE DRAGGING PEOPLE OUTTA THEIR HOMES!
LOCK YOUR DOOR AND SIT TIGHT. I'M ON MY WAY.
COME ON, DONNIE, PICK UP.
SO... THE TURTLES WHO ATTACKED STOCKMAN COULD SIMPLY BE OTHER TURTLES SINCE THERE WERE OTHER TURTLE MUTANTS CREATED BY THE M-BOMB, LIKE LITA AND TOKKA. SO IT'S PERFECTLY PLAUSIBLE...
...AND THE MUTANT TOWN PUBLIC KNOWS WHO WE ARE, OUR PERSONAL WEAPONS, AND THE FACT THAT THERE ARE FOUR HAMATO BROTHERS. THAT'S NOT A SECRET, SO SOMEONE COULD CONCEIVABLY IMITATE US, PERHAPS TO FRAME US...
...IT ALSO SEEMS LIKE IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE A COINCIDENCE THAT WE JUST DEALT WITH DR. BARLOW AND HIS SURGICALLY ALTERED MUTANT HYBRIDS...

...AND ALOPEX MENTIONED SEEING MUTANTS IN SOME KIND OF STASIS IN THE CELLAR OF BARLOW'S HOUSE...
...AND VENUS... BARLOW WAS TURNING HER FROM A FROG INTO A TURTLE. THAT COULD ALSO BE RELATED...TOO MANY COINCIDENCES, RIGHT?
IT HAS TO ALL BE RELATED. IT HAS TO BE PART OF THE ARMAGEDDON GAME.
YEAH, UH, TOTALLY.
YOU OKAY, SENSEI?
I DON'T KNOW. JUST OVERWHELMED.
YOU ALL STAY PUT. I NEED TO GO CHECK IN ON ANGEL, BUT...
...I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE COMMS. I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE MONITOR SYSTEM. SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN OR SOMEONE MIGHT NEED ME.
DANGER
PELIGRO

SERI. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN COOPED UP HERE FOR TOO LONG, BUT I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU.
YES! MAKE ME PART OF THE TEAM!
I NEED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.
IF YOU SEE ANYTHING SCARY OR ANYONE CALLS FOR HELP, CALL ME IMMEDIATELY. CAN YOU DO THAT?
YES! I WILL!
AND CARMEN, YOU KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
I WANNA DO COMMS, TOO.
NOT 'TIL YOU'RE OLDER, KIDDO.

WHAT A DISASTER.
I HOPE VENUS IS ALL RIGHT OUT THERE.
I FEEL LIKE I'M ALREADY IN OVER MY HEAD, AND IT'S ONLY JUST STARTED.
DONATELLO...
...I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, BUT...
...THINGS ARE DIFFICULT.

VENUS! I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU!
I KNOW. BLUDGEON AND I SENSED SOMETHING DANGEROUS COMING TO THE CITY, AND THEN I SENSED YOU.
BLUDGEON?! WHERE ARE YOU, VENUS?
PLEASE DON'T SAY YOU'RE WITH THE FOOT...
NO. I'M NOT.
WELL, OKAY, BUT...
...YOU SAY YOU WISHED YOU COULD HELP ME, SO WHY CAN'T YOU?
I JUST... I CAN'T.
ALL RIGHT. FORGET IT.
I DON'T NEED YOU.

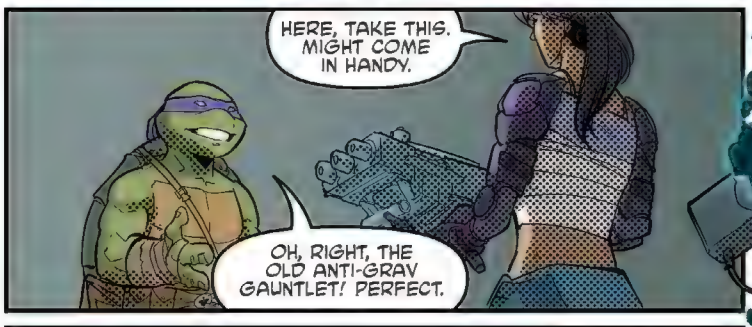
WAIT HERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
SHEENA!
UH-OH, THAT COP IS HERE.
I'M NOT--FINE, UGH!
EVERYBODY OUT!
BAM
KRAK
KRUNCH
HEY! LEAVE HER ALONE!
YOU CAN'T STAY LOCKED IN HERE AND IGNORE WHAT'S GOIN' ON OUT THERE!

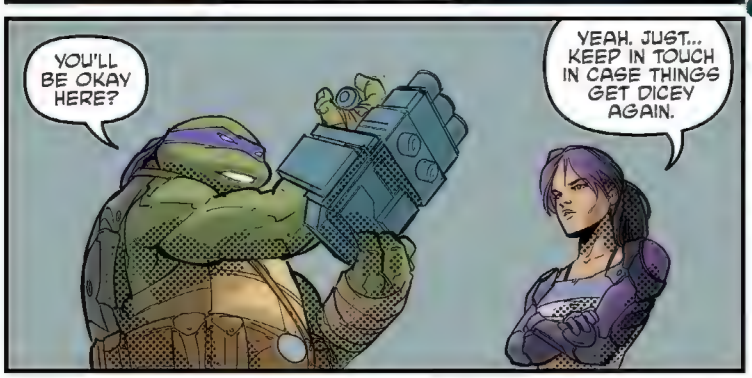
ANGEL. HEY. IT'S ME, DONNIE. WHAT HAPPENED? WHO ATTACKED YOU?
URGGGH...
THEY... LOOKED JUST LIKE REGULAR MUTANTS, BUT...
...THERE'S NO WAY THEY WERE.
OUCH.
BLASTED ONE OF 'EM, THOUGH.
YOU SURE DID. HM.
WAIT A SECOND...
WHAT IS THIS?

EW. NASTY.
I KNOW THIS TECH.

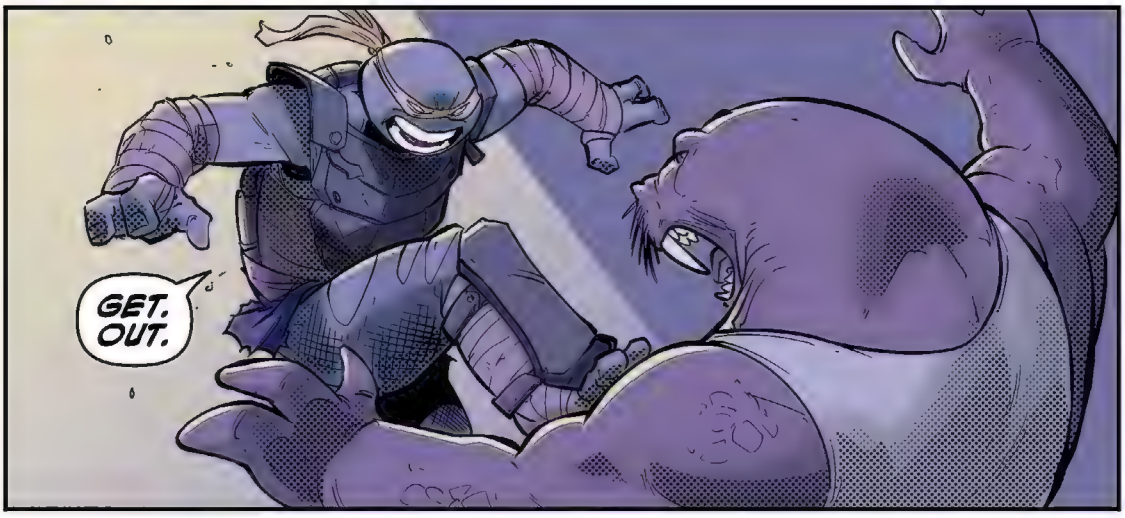
UTROMS.
THEY HAVE TO BE AFTER SERI.
THE TRICERATON GIRL?

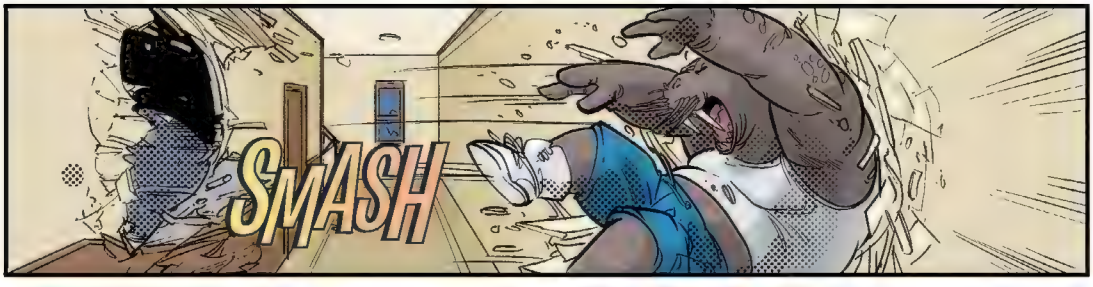
YEAH. CH'RELL MUST'VE SENT THEM TO ASSASSINATE HER. DAMMIT.
I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE LAIR BEFORE THEY GET THERE.


HERE, TAKE THIS. MIGHT COME IN HANDY.
OH, RIGHT, THE OLD ANTI-GRAV GAUNTLET! PERFECT.


YOU'LL BE OKAY HERE?
YEAH. JUST... KEEP IN TOUCH IN CASE THINGS GET DICEY AGAIN.

STAY SAFE, ANGEL.


GET. OUT.


SMASH

YOU OKAY, BABE? HOW 'BOUT YOU COME STAY AT THE LAIR FOR A BIT. WE GOT ROOM.

I... OKAY...

OH! HEY, WHERE YOU GOIN'?

THEY'RE BACK!

PUGGLE, BANDIT--I THOUGHT WE WERE COOL NOW.
NOPE! STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHEN YOU BROKE MY BILL.
IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, JENNIKA. THIS JUST ISN'T YOUR TURF ANYMORE.
THAT'S CONSTABLE JENNIKA!
POW
BRAK
KRAK
BOK
N-NO... URGH...
SORRY I'M LATE, JENNY.

BUT BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, RIGHT?
KRAKK
BRONK
SHRIK
WIMPS!
YOOO, CASEY, THAT WAS AWESOME.
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT SHOW UP.
WE'RE KINDA SHORT-STAFFED, HUH?

KINDA, YEAH. I KNOW DONNIE'S TRYING TO KEEP US ALL ORGANIZED, BUT YEAH, IT'S JUST A LOT.
THINGS ARE GETTIN' PRETTY HAIRY *OUTSIDE* THE WALL, TOO.
RIGHT NOW LET'S JUST FOCUS ON GETTING YOU GUYS TO THE BUNKER, WHERE IT'LL BE SAFE, AT LEAST UNTIL WE FIGURE THIS MESS OUT.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS COOL THOSE *DOPPELGÄNGER* TURTLES ATTACKED THE MAYOR, LIKE, IT'S BEEN A *LONG* TIME COMING, YOU KNOW?
LIKE, MUTANTS FINALLY MAKING OURSELVES HEARD. BUT...
YEAH... I DO THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME.
I GUESS I KINDA FORGOT THAT EVEN THOUGH SOME OF US CAN COME AND GO, EVERYONE *ELSE* IS STILL STUCK IN HERE.
SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE THINK THOSE PHONY TURTLES ARE *HEROES.*
YEAH. KINDA MAKES ME FEEL LIKE MAYBE ME AND THE OTHER TURTLES SHOULDA CONFRONTED STOCKMAN OR *SOMETHING* LIKE THAT.
BUT *YOU'RE* PEOPLE'S HEROES, TOO.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.

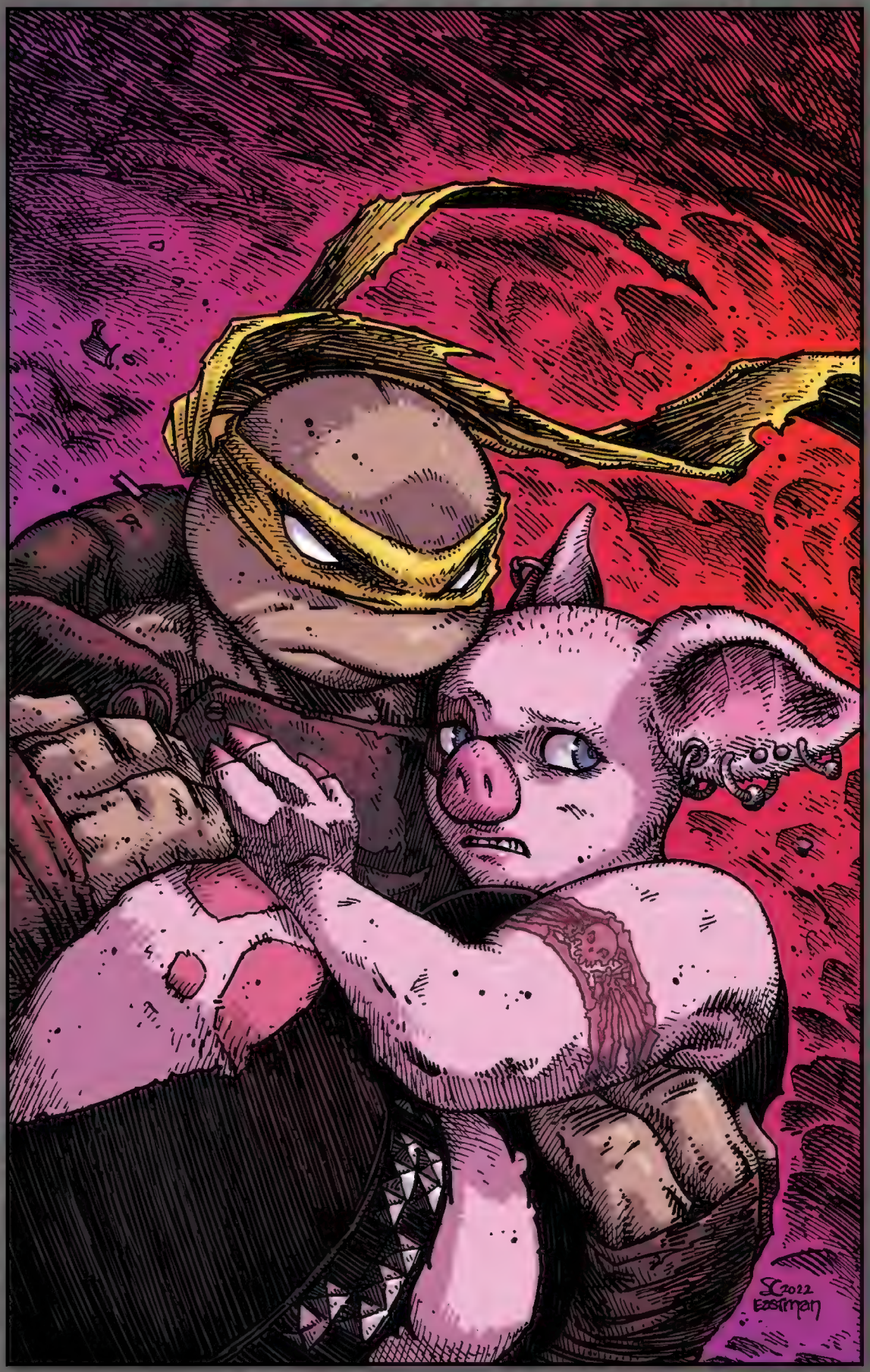
SERI?!
SERI! OH, YOU'RE SAFE! WHEW...
I'M DOING MY JOB!
GOOD WORK, SERI. THANKS. I WAS WORRIED...
...SERI, I BELIEVE THERE ARE UTROMS HERE IN THE CITY SEARCHING FOR YOU.
THAT'S WHY I RAN BACK HERE. I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY'D ALREADY FOUND YOU.
COLONEL CH'RELL HAS ORDERED MY DEATH. I UNDERSTAND. I MUST TAKE EXTRA CARE TO STAY HIDDEN.
EXACTLY. THE UTROMS WILL FIND YOU EVENTUALLY, SERI, BUT I'M GOING TO PROTECT YOU.

I'M GOING TO PROTECT EVERYONE.
JENNY, WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?
WHERE YOU BEEN, DONNIE?
I'M DOWN BUT NOT OUT. RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE, BUT CASEY CAME TO THE RESCUE. HEADING TO THE LAIR NOW.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, JEN. I HAD TO CHECK ON ANGEL, BUT SHE'S OKAY.
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT, CASEY.
NO PROBLEM, MAN. JUST DOIN' MY PART.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN GONE AS LONG AS I WAS.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE COORDINATING YOU GUYS, GIVING YOU A HEADS-UP BEFORE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS, BEING YOUR EYES.
I BLEW IT THIS TIME, BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, CASEY, YOU NEED TO GET BACK OUTSIDE THE WALL. WHOEVER THOSE FAKE TURTLES ARE, THEY'RE STILL ON THE LOOSE.
COPY THAT.
JENNY, THERE ARE UTROMS IN THE CITY SEARCHING FOR REGENTA SERI, AND I NEED TO WORK ON FORTIFYING THE LAIR BEFORE THEY FIND IT.
YOU SAID YOU WERE COMING TO THE LAIR, RIGHT? GET HERE ASAP BEFORE I LOCK IT DOWN.
ON MY WAY.
LITA, CAN YOU HELP ME MOVE SOME THINGS IN HERE FROM MY LAB?
I NEED TO DO SOME EXPERIMENTS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE COMMS AGAIN.
OKAY!
YOU GONNA EXPERIMENT WITH THIS THING?
CAREFUL, THAT'S AN ANTI-GRAVITY GAUNTLET.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M GOING TO DO YET...

"...BUT I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA."
CONTROL OF SPACE AND TIME...
...TO MOVE IN A ROW...
...RETSU.

OKAY, YOU GUYS CAN HIDE OUT HERE FOR NOW. WE'VE GOT ROOM.
I'LL SEE YOU SOON, SHEENA. I GOTTA GO BACK OUT THERE.
BABY, YOU'RE *HURT.*
YOU'RE A *MESS* RIGHT NOW.
I'LL BE OKAY. *PROMISE.*



art by KEVIN EASTMAN & SOPHIE CAMPBELL

art by VINCENZO FEDERICI
colors by MATT HERMS

THE ARMAGEDDON GAME #3

NEW YORK CITY.
WHETHER NATIONS UNITED OR NATIONS DIVIDED... TO ME, IT MATTERS NOT.
WHAT REALLY, TRULY MATTERS, IS LEAVING THIS WORLD IN TATTERS... AND, MY CHILDREN, IT'S ABOUT TO GET HOT.
FOR MY FAMILY TO RULE ALL, THEY MUST HEED MY APOCALYPTIC CALL... AND, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, SOON YOU WILL ALL SURELY KNOW.
ALTHOUGH YOU IGNORE IT YET, THE FINAL GAMEBOARD HAS BEEN SET... AND THIS GRAND CITY IS BUT THE FIRST DOMINO TO GO.
FOR CHAOS BEGETS CHAOS, AND THEREFORE, I MUST ALWAYS PLAY THUS... AS VICTORY, FOR ME, COMES FROM AGES MOST DIRE.
LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, I COMMANDEER MORTAL PLIGHT... ANOTHER GLOBAL FLOOD? NAY... A WORLD ENGULFED BY FIRE.
ADMITTEDLY NOT MY FINEST DITTY, CHILDREN, BUT A SONG FROM THE HEART, NONETHELESS.
AND A PROPHETIC TUNE, IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED.
WHICH REMINDS ME...
...WE'VE SOMEWHERE TO BE.
"SO YOU JUST GONNA STAND THERE STARIN'..."

NORTH BROTHER ISLAND.
...OR YOU GONNA JOIN US ON THIS GRAND NEW ADVENTURE?
MUTANT TOWN WAS JUST THE START. MUTANTS AIN'T SOME DIRTY SECRET ANYMORE. WE'RE BUILDIN' OUR OWN COMMUNITY, OUR OWN BUSINESSES, OUR OWN GOVERNMENT.
HELL, WE EVEN GOT OUR OWN KEYSTONE COPS.
WHATEVER.
BUT WHAT'S THAT OLD REAL ESTATE SAYIN'? LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION?
THING IS, MUTANT TOWN'S STILL TOO CLOSE TO HUMANS. AND WITH STOCKMAN'S STINKIN' WALL, IT'S LIKE A GREAT BIG CAGE WITH CONSTANT REMINDERS ON EVERY SIDE OF WHAT US MUTANTS USED TO BE.
THAT DAMN WALL DON'T JUST STOP US FROM LEAVIN', IT STOPS US FROM CELEBRATIN' WHAT WE ARE NOW... AND WHAT WE CAN BECOME.
MUTANT ISLAND'S GONNA CHANGE ALL THAT.
AIN'T THIS WHERE THEY USED TO KEEP TYPHOID MARY?
YEAH. KINDA POETIC, HUH?
MUTANTS COMIN' TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP THE HUMAN DISEASE.
SOUNDS MORE LIKE A PIPE DREAM THAN A POEM TO ME.
AND KINDA POINTLESS IF WE DON'T STOP RAT KING AND THOSE OTHER YAHOOS.
WHAT'D YOU SAY RATTY'S CALLIN' HIS LITTLE SHINDIG?

THE ARMAGEDDON GAME.
STUPID NAME.
STUPID! STUPID!
FUNNY PART IS, THE WHOLE "EVIL VILLAINS GETTIN' TOGETHER TO DO EVIL" BUSINESS DON'T SURPRISE ME ALL THAT MUCH. BUT YOU DO-GOODER TURTLES TEAMIN' UP WITH SHREDDER?
THAT I DIDN'T SEE COMIN'.
ME NEITHER.
WHO DID? BUT SHREDDER'S BEEN ON THE UP-AND-UP SO FAR. HE TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU GOIN' AFTER STOCKMAN AT TCRI.*
SAID YOU SCARED THE LIVIN' HELL OUTTA BAXTER, AND HIM BEIN' AFRAID OF YOU WASTIN' HIM IS SOMETHING WE CAN USE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
*See TMNT THE ARMAGEDDON GAME—OPENING MOVES #2--C.B.
WELL, SHREDHEAD'S ONLY HALF-RIGHT. STOCKMAN'S SCARED, BUT NOT OF ME KILLIN' HIM.
NAH, WHAT HE'S REALLY AFRAID OF IS LOSIN'... LOSIN' EVERYTHING HE'S BUILT.
ESPECIALLY LOSIN' IT ALL TO A "LESSER OPPONENT." THAT'D KILL HIM WORSE THAN HIM ACTUALLY DYIN'.
SO WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
MEANS WE GOTTA START MAKIN' HIS FEARS COME TRUE. WE NEED TO BRING IT ALL DOWN, BIT BY STINKIN' BIT...
... STARTIN' WITH THAT DAMN MUTANT TOWN WALL.
WE'RE GONNA NEED SOME HELP TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, THOUGH.
WHAT KINDA HELP?
THE MAN RAY KIND...

"...HE'S OUR **BEST BET** FOR FINDIN' A WAY TO BRING STOCKMAN'S WHOLE DAMN WORLD **CRASHIN' DOWN.**"

NEW YORK CITY. TCRI HEADQUARTERS.

TCRI

TCRI SECURITY

SIX MINUTES!

MOVE!

IT'S THE **MUTANT TERRORISTS!**

TAKE 'EM DOWN!

FOUR MINUTES!

PLENTY OF TIME.

WE'RE **DONE!**

"LET'S **ROLL!**"

TCRI

IN AND OUT, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED. NICE.
AFFIRMATIVE. FIRST THINGS FIRST, THOUGH.
MUTANT TOWN NEXT, RIGHT?
GET THE CAMERA READY...
CLK
...'CAUSE IT'S SHOWTIME.
BEEP
C4
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
C4
BA-DOOM
"MAN, I NEVER WOULDA GUESSED DESTRUCTION COULD BE SO BEAUTIFUL..."

ASTRAEA ASTEROID BELT.
DIMENSION X.
...BUT THIS IS THE MOST AMAZING THING I'VE EVER SEEN!
NOT TOO SURPRISING, DADDY-O...
...CONSIDERING THE SOURCE OF THIS ASTEROID BELT WAS A BIG, BEAUTIFUL PLANET CALLED ASTRAEA. ACCORDING TO THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, AT LEAST.
WHAT HAPPENED TO IT, ZAK?
JURY'S OUT ON THAT. SOME SAY AN INTERSTELLAR WAR DESTROYED ASTRAEA, OTHERS THINK IT WAS A PLANETARY COLLISION. IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO, NOBODY'S SURE.
THESE DAYS IT'S MOSTLY UNINHABITED, THOUGH, EXCEPT FOR A FEW PLACES LIKE THE VOLCANIC ASTEROID AND STUMP ASTEROID.
SLEEP TIGHT, LITTLE GUY. I GOTTA GO HELP FLY THE SHIP.
FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION STUMP ASTEROID, KALA...
...BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE TORBIN ZIXX SMUGGLED THE GRYBYX CREATURES FROM.*
THE PROPRIETORS, STUMP AND SLING, CONTRACTED US TO GET THEM BACK.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THE NOVA POSSE WAS HIRED BY A COUPLE OF CROOKS...
*See TMNT: THE ARMAGEDDON GAME #2--C.B.
...TO CATCH ANOTHER CROOK, COMMANDER AZUL?
HEY, WHEN YOU'RE ON DIMENSION X'S MOST WANTED LIST LIKE WE ARE...
...PAYING GIGS AREN'T EXACTLY EASY TO COME BY. BEGGARS AND BRIGANDS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.
SPEAKING OF PAY, MA'AM...
...I'VE GOT A HOT READ ON ZIXX'S SHIP.
"SO, IF WE DO GET YOUR GUY OUT..."

...WE'RE NOT TALKIN' ANY MORE MUTAGEN BOMBS, RIGHT?
NO. I MEAN, I STILL THINK A MUTANTS-ONLY WORLD'S THE BEST THING... BUT WILLIN' MUTANTS, NOT FORCED.
PRETTY SURE MAN RAY'LL AGREE THE FIGHT'S ABOUT GIVIN' FOLKS BACK THEIR FREEDOMS...
...BELIEVE IT OR NOT.
"THIS IS JIN, THE EIGHTH CUT..."
...TO WIN THE COMING FIGHT, YOU WILL NEED TO CONNECT WITH YOUR ENEMY. WALK WITH THEM.
YOU CAN NO LONGER ACT BEFORE LEARNING ABOUT YOUR ENEMY.
THESE TECHNIQUES ARE TO BE USED SPARINGLY, AND ALWAYS IN SECRECY.
SCREW IT.
IN FORMATION... TO PREPARE... READING OF THOUGHTS...
...JIN.
HOB'S TELLIN' THE TRUTH.
EVOKE, THEN REVOKE.
UH... WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
NOTHIN'. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SO, YOU READY TO GET BACK TO MUTANT TOWN...

"...AND GET TO WORK?"
THIS RECON MISSION MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU, COLONEL KNIGHT? I MEAN...
...SHOULDN'T WE BE TIGHTENING SECURITY AROUND STOCKMAN AFTER THE ATTACK ON HIS SPEECH?*
OURS IS NOT TO QUESTION WHY, SERGEANT WINTER. IF THIS IS WHERE THE MAYOR WANTS US, THIS IS WHERE WE GO.
DRONE'S OVER YOUR POSITION NOW.
ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR...
*See TMNT: THE ARMAGEDDON #1 & #2--C.B.
...BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD BE ASKING QUESTIONS.
YOU KNOW I'M WITH YOU NO MATTER WHAT, BUT I'M NOT GONNA LIE. THAT DETECTIVE... LEWIS... IS RIGHT--
--SOMETHING STINKS ABOUT ALL THIS.
MAYBE.
OR MAYBE THOSE INSIDE SOURCES THE MAYOR WAS BRAGGING ABOUT TIPPED HIM OFF TO SOMETHING...
...'CAUSE THE NATIVES ARE DEFINITELY GETTING RESTLESS.
UH... I THINK YOU MAY BE RIGHT, COLONEL.
YOU MIGHT WANNA SWING THAT DRONE OVER TO THE CITY HALL BUILDING, SIR--
"--WE'VE GOT FOUR TANGOS ON THE MOVE."
"THAT'S IT. THE FOURTH CUT..."

"...TO *REVEAL* YOURSELF..."

SOMEWHERE IN THE INTERDIMENSIONAL SLIPSTREAM.

...AND YOUR *OTHER SELF.*

AGAINST A FOE... HEALING...

...SHA!

HE INHABITS YOU, *YOU* INHABIT HIM.

YIN... YANG...

...LIGHT... DARK...

...BALANCE... HARMONY...

...POWER!

KLANG

EXCELLENT.

NOW...

"...RETURN."

EVOKE, THEN REVOKE.

YOUR POWERS HAVE *ADVANCED* SINCE NORTHAMPTON, LEONARDO. THAT IS GOOD.

FOR US TO HAVE ANY CHANCE AT SUCCESS IN THE *HELLSCAPE* THAT AWAITS US REQUIRES *ABSOLUTE CONTROL* OVER THE *DUALITY* WITHIN.

I KNOW.

NO BALANCE. NO VICTORY.

WELL I'M SURE *IMPRESSED...*

...AND I KNOW FROM *LIGHT* AND *DARK,* LEMME TELL YOU.

WHOA! DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU IN *HERE,* CUDLEY. NOT WHEN YOU'RE...

OUT THERE? JUST A LITTLE *TRICK* I USE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MY PASSENGERS.

IT CAN BE A LITTLE *OFF-PUTTING* AT FIRST, SO I'M TOLD.

I WAS WATCHING YOUR *OWN* MAGIC TRICK EARLIER AND I GOTTA SAY, IT REALLY *IS* SOMETHING. IT SO HAPPENS, FINDING THE LIGHT IN THE DARK IS MY *PURPOSE.*

YOU SEE, I'M NATURALLY DRAWN TO THOSE WITH WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A *RIGHTEOUS AURA* ABOUT THEM. SOME ARE FULLY ESTABLISHED, LIKE WITH THE ONE I'M TAKING YOU TO, *CHERUBAE.*

OTHERS, LIKE *TORBIN ZIXX,* EXIST MORE IN THE *GRAY AREAS* IN BETWEEN, NEEDING ONLY THE PROPER *GUIDANCE* AND *ENCOURAGEMENT* TO MOVE ALL THE WAY *INTO* THE LIGHT.

THAT'S WHERE *I* COME IN.

BUT ISN'T ZIXX A *SMUGGLER?*

HE *IS* THAT. MOST KNOW HIM AS *ZIXX OF THE BLACK BLADE.*

BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU CARRY A BLACK BLADE...

...DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN YOU CARRY A *BLACK HEART.*

OOP! WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION LATER.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE CROSSED OVER INTO *DIMENSION Z...*

"...AND OUR *DESTINATION'S* IN SIGHT."

NEXT STOP: *PLANET HIROBYL.*

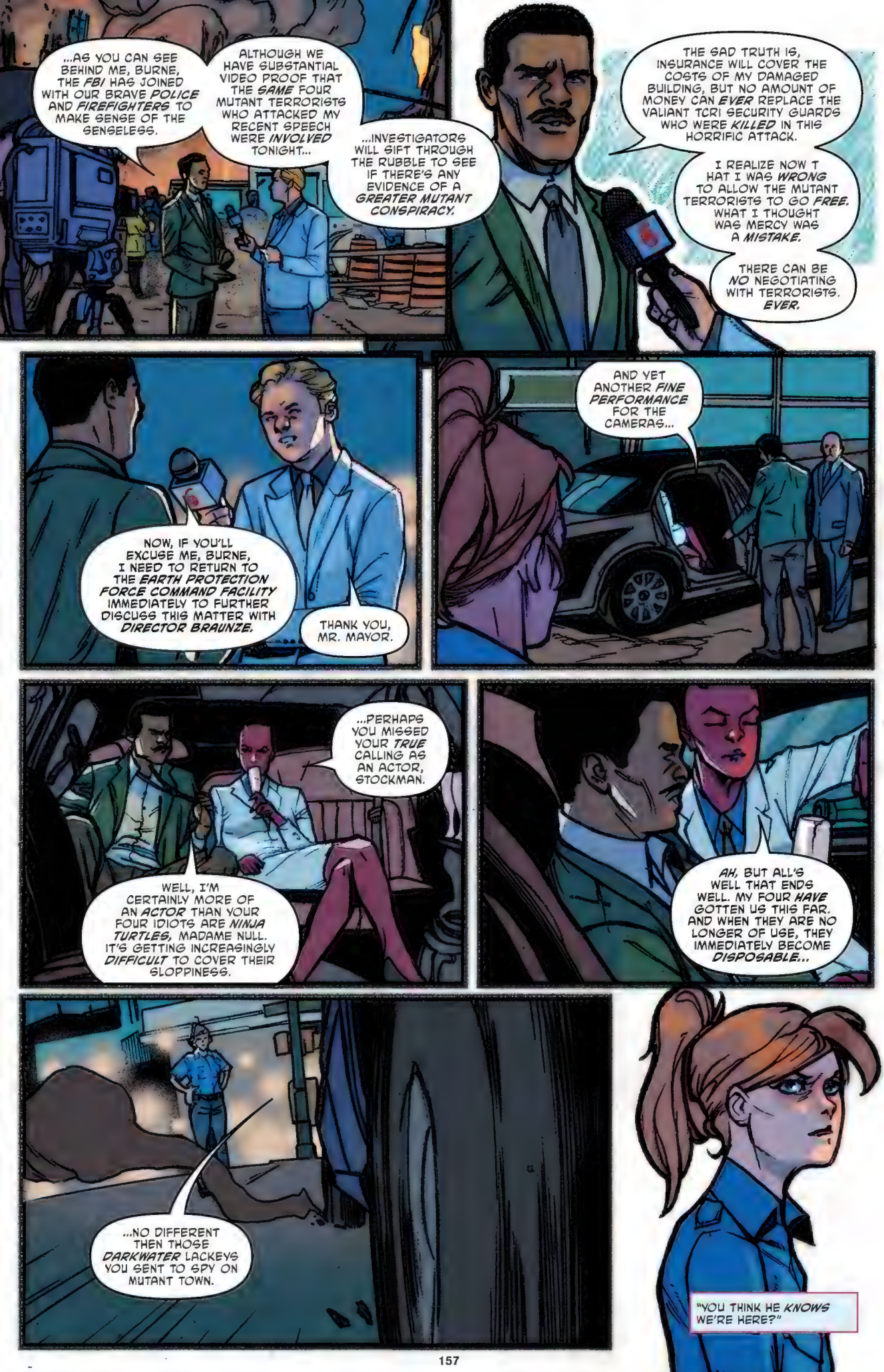
WELL I GUESS THIS IS *IT.*

I WONDER HOW THINGS ARE GOING...

"...FOR MIKEY AND THE OTHERS."
YEP, TORBIN OL' BOY, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR BUGGING OUT BEFORE YOUR REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED...
...A BROKEN SHIP.
A BROKEN SHIP'S THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES, ZIXX...
...DROP THE WRENCH AND PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR.
AND BEFORE YOU GO GETTING ANY ESCAPE IDEAS, WE'VE GOT YOU OUTGUNNED...
"...AND OUTFLANKED RIGHT NOW."
AND OUT-JETPACKED!
THAT TOO.
REALLY?
"WELL, BEFORE I SURRENDER, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY 'CONTRABAND.' THOSE SLEEPY LITTLE CREATURES AREN'T EXACTLY WHAT THEY APPEAR TO BE..."

...GRYBYX ARE INTELLIGENT AS ALL GET OUT, HAVE NATURAL TELEKINETIC ABILITIES AND A KEEN SENSE OF SMELL, AND HAVE TO BE KEPT ON A STRICT LIQUID DIET WHEN THEY AREN'T IN THE WILD.
WHY, YOU ASK? BECAUSE IF THESE CRITTERS ARE GIVEN EVEN A CRUMB OF SOLID FOOD, THEY MORPH INTO GREAT BIG, VICIOUS HUNTER-TRACKERS. VIRTUALLY UNCONTROLLABLE.
WHY DO YOU THINK THOSE GREEDY IDIOTS STUMP AND SLING HAD 'EM? THEY WERE GONNA STUFF THE POOR LITTLE GUYS FULL OF FOOD AND MAKE 'EM RIP ONE ANOTHER TO PIECES DURING THE MAIN TICKET AT THE NEXT GRAPPLEGANZA. THAT'S RIGHT, SPORTS FANS...
"...ILLEGAL GRYBYX CAGE FIGHTING."
SO A CONSERVATION GROUP CALLED THE CARETAKERS HIRED ME TO GET 'EM TO THE EXOTIC SPECIES SANCTUARY ON THE MIVEY METEOR.
I STOLE 'EM TO SAVE 'EM.
FOR A PROFIT!
WELL, YEAH, I PLAN ON GETTING PAID. YOU DO WHAT YOU DO FOR FREE?
COMMANDER AZUL, PERHAPS WE SHOULD RECONSIDER THE SITUATION?
ALL DUE RESPECT, PRINCESS, WE ARE NOT HERE TO MAKE ETHICAL JUDGMENTS.
GROTTO, EXEEN... CUFF HIM UP.
CUFF OR ROUGH.
ZIXX CHOICE.
YEAH. ABOUT THAT...

...I'M NOT EXACTLY AS I APPEAR TO BE, EITHER.
ZIXX NOT REAL!
ANOTHER HOLOGRAM!
SPAWN OF A DUST WORM!
COMMANDER, I'VE GOT WORSE NEWS...
...I'M PICKING UP MULTIPLE POSITIONAL READINGS FOR ZIXX AND HIS SHIP ON THE ASTEROID.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, TRIP?
IT'S LIKE HE'S EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE...
...ALL AT ONCE.
ALL OF YOU! COMB THIS ENTIRE ASTEROID AND FIND THAT THIEF!
TRIP AND ZEBULON, IF HE TRIES TO FLY OUT OF HERE, BLAST HIM OUT OF THE SKY...
...AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT JAMMING THE FALSE LOCATION SIGNALS!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!
ZIXX, I SWEAR...
...THIS ENDS TODAY.
"THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING..."


...AS YOU CAN SEE BEHIND ME, BURNE, THE FBI HAS JOINED WITH OUR BRAVE POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS TO MAKE SENSE OF THE SENSELESS.
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL VIDEO PROOF THAT THE SAME FOUR MUTANT TERRORISTS WHO ATTACKED MY RECENT SPEECH WERE INVOLVED TONIGHT...
...INVESTIGATORS WILL SIFT THROUGH THE RUBBLE TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY EVIDENCE OF A GREATER MUTANT CONSPIRACY.
THE SAD TRUTH IS, INSURANCE WILL COVER THE COSTS OF MY DAMAGED BUILDING, BUT NO AMOUNT OF MONEY CAN EVER REPLACE THE VALIANT TCRI SECURITY GUARDS WHO WERE KILLED IN THIS HORRIFIC ATTACK.
I REALIZE NOW T HAT I WAS WRONG TO ALLOW THE MUTANT TERRORISTS TO GO FREE. WHAT I THOUGHT WAS MERCY WAS A MISTAKE.
THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS. EVER.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, BURNE, I NEED TO RETURN TO THE EARTH PROTECTION FORCE COMMAND FACILITY IMMEDIATELY TO FURTHER DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH DIRECTOR BRAUNZE.
THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR.
AND YET ANOTHER FINE PERFORMANCE FOR THE CAMERAS...
...PERHAPS YOU MISSED YOUR TRUE CALLING AS AN ACTOR, STOCKMAN.
WELL, I'M CERTAINLY MORE OF AN ACTOR THAN YOUR FOUR IDIOTS ARE NINJA TURTLES, MADAME NULL. IT'S GETTING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO COVER THEIR SLOPPINESS.
AH, BUT ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. MY FOUR HAVE GOTTEN US THIS FAR. AND WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER OF USE, THEY IMMEDIATELY BECOME DISPOSABLE...
...NO DIFFERENT THEN THOSE DARKWATER LACKEYS YOU SENT TO SPY ON MUTANT TOWN.
"YOU THINK HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE?"

OR IS THIS *ANOTHER* TRICK?

ONLY ONE WAY TO *FIND* OUT. ON THREE.

ONE... TWO...

...*THREE!*

NOPE. ONLY *TWO.*

BLASTED *FAKE!*

FWAK

MAN...

"...THIS GUY'S *GOOD.*"

HYAH!

CLIK

CRAP.

GAH!

FWOOMP

COMMANDER! ARE YOU *OKAY?!*

HE ‡COUGH‡ GOT ME, TOO.

ANOTHER HOLOGRAM?

NEGATIVE. IT WAS A ‡COUGH‡ DAMN *SMOKE MINE.*

TRIP, PLEASE ‡COUGH‡ TELL ME YOU'VE GOT *SOMETHING.*

SORRY, COMMANDER...

...BUT EVERY TIME YOU GUYS EXPOSE ONE OF ZIXX'S HOLOGRAMS, THREE *MORE* LOCATION READINGS APPEAR ON MY SCANNER.

WE'VE GOT EYES *ALL OVER* THIS ASTEROID, BOSS...

...BUT NONE OF US KNOW *WHERE* TO LOOK.

"MICHELANGELO, YOU LEARN BEST THROUGH YOUR CONNECTION WITH OTHERS...

"...YOU OBSERVE OTHERS AND LEARN MOST EFFECTIVELY WHEN IN A GROUP."

THIS IS THE THIRD CUT, TO.

HARMONY. BATTLE.

"YOU WILL CREATE HARMONY WHERE THERE IS NONE, BOTH IN BATTLE *AND* IN PEACE."

I GOT IT!

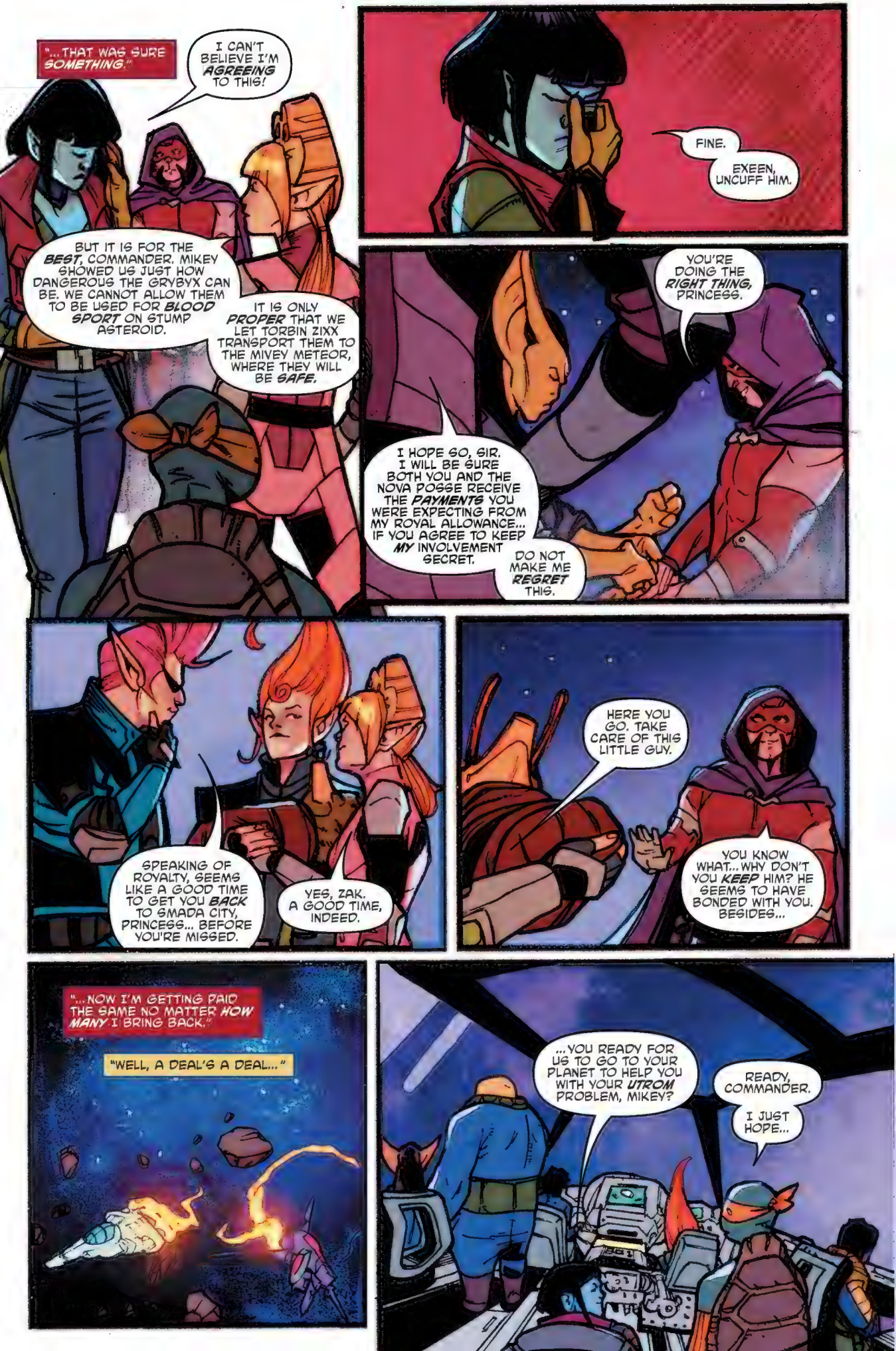
SHOOOM

PRINCESS! I NEED TO BORROW THAT LITTLE GRYBYX GUY REAL QUICK!
BUT, MIKEY, WHY--
TO CATCH A THIEF!
JUST NEED A LITTLE SUGARY FUEL FIRST.
HERE YOU GO, LITTLE DUDE. GOOD STUFF.
WAIT. DIDN'T TORBIN ZIXX SAY TO NOT FEED THESE CREATURES?
YEAH. AND HE ALSO SAID THEY ARE TOTALLY GOOD AT TRACKING THINGS.
WHICH GAVE ME AN IDEA.
GROOOAR!
GRRRRR...
IT'S OKAY, BIG FELLA. JUST TAKE A WHIFF OF THIS.
SNIFF SNIFF
THAT'S IT. YOU REMEMBER WHO GAVE THIS BLANKET TO YOU, HUH?

HOW--
NO BIGGIE, PRINCESS...
"...I'VE GOT LOTS OF EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH BIG, ANGRY GUYS WHO LIKE CANDY."
THAT'S IT, BIG FELLA...
"...FOLLOW YOUR NOSE."
OH...
...NO.
FWOOMP
SNIFF
SNIFF

GROOOAR!
C'MON, C'MON...
SHMP
OKAY. ALL FIXED. TIME TO...
...GO.
GRRRRR...
GULP
WHOA... NO, NO, NO...
NO!

HARMONY... BATTLE...
...TO!
HN?
UFF!
COOO
FWUMP
EVOKE, THEN REVOKE.
PHEW!
WELL...


"...THAT WAS SURE SOMETHING."
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M AGREEING TO THIS!
BUT IT IS FOR THE BEST, COMMANDER. MIKEY SHOWED US JUST HOW DANGEROUS THE GRYBYX CAN BE. WE CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO BE USED FOR BLOOD SPORT ON STUMP ASTEROID.
IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT WE LET TORBIN ZIXX TRANSPORT THEM TO THE MIVEY METEOR, WHERE THEY WILL BE SAFE.
FINE.
EXEEN, UNCUFF HIM.
YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, PRINCESS.
I HOPE SO, SIR. I WILL BE SURE BOTH YOU AND THE NOVA POSSE RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS YOU WERE EXPECTING FROM MY ROYAL ALLOWANCE... IF YOU AGREE TO KEEP MY INVOLVEMENT SECRET.
DO NOT MAKE ME REGRET THIS.
SPEAKING OF ROYALTY, SEEMS LIKE A GOOD TIME TO GET YOU BACK TO SMADA CITY, PRINCESS... BEFORE YOU'RE MISSED.
YES, ZAK. A GOOD TIME, INDEED.
HERE YOU GO. TAKE CARE OF THIS LITTLE GUY.
YOU KNOW WHAT... WHY DON'T YOU KEEP HIM? HE SEEMS TO HAVE BONDED WITH YOU. BESIDES...
"...NOW I'M GETTING PAID THE SAME NO MATTER HOW MANY I BRING BACK."
"WELL, A DEAL'S A DEAL..."
...YOU READY FOR US TO GO TO YOUR PLANET TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR UTROM PROBLEM, MIKEY?
READY, COMMANDER.
I JUST HOPE...

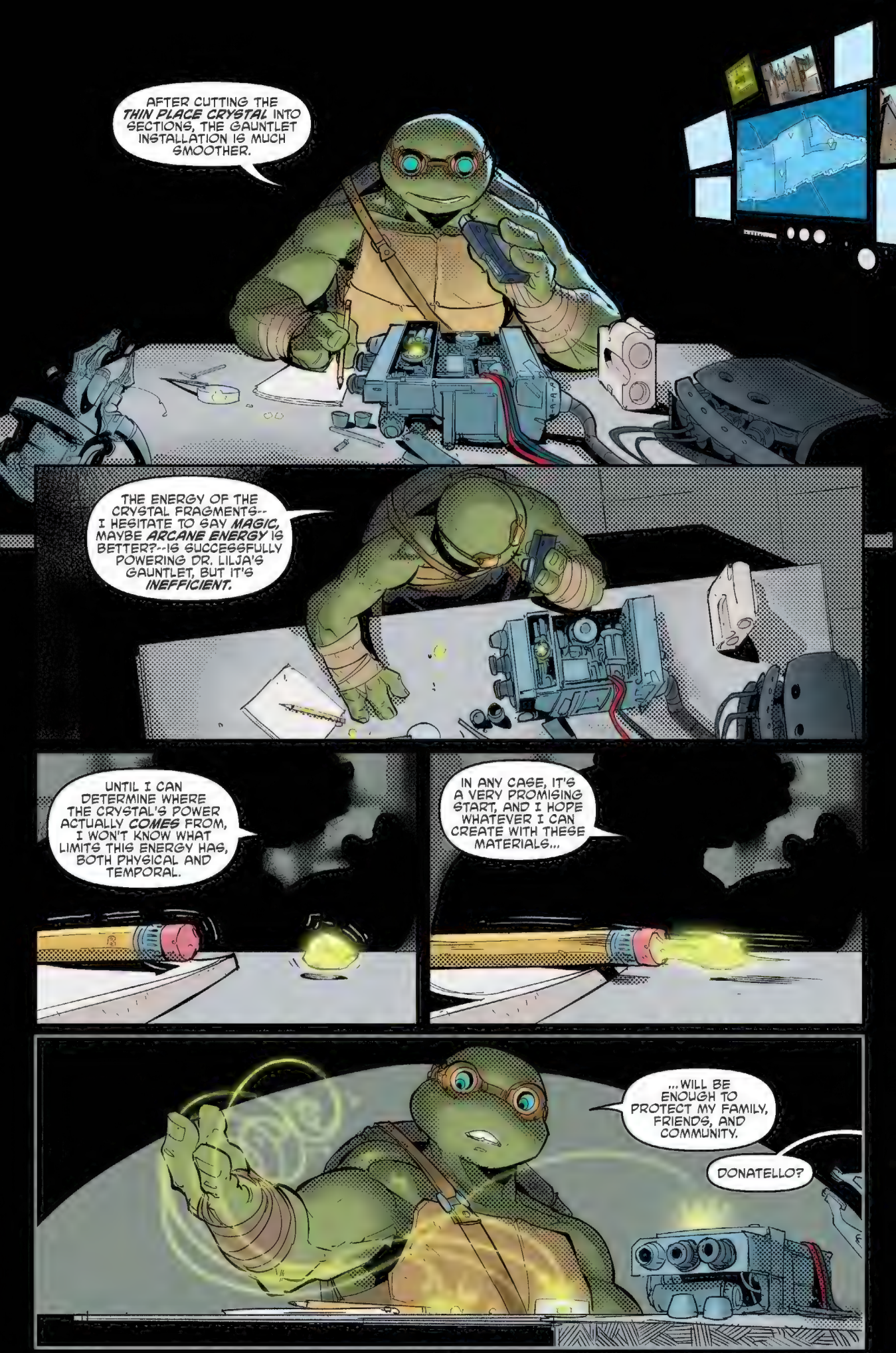
"...WE'RE NOT TOO LATE."
EARTH PROTECTION FORCE (E.P.F.) COMMAND FACILITY.
NEW YORK CITY.
SO IT APPEARS YOUR TASK IS FINISHED, HM?
I MUST SAY, YOU'VE DONE COMMENDABLE WORK, DR. BARLOW...
...YOU EVEN MANAGED TO KEEP THE PRIZE FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AMONG THE LIVING.
I'M GENUINELY IMPRESSED.
I ONLY HOPE I CAN KEEP THE CREATURE ALIVE.
THE ALIEN PARASITE CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ITS INTERNAL ORGANS, LET ALONE THE SEVERE MENTAL TRAUMA THAT WAS INFLICTED DURING THEIR FAILED SYMBIOSIS.
THE HEALING OOZE THAT RUNS IN ITS BLOOD MAY ULTIMATELY HEAL ITS INSIDES. THE BRAIN, HOWEVER...
THAT PATHETIC BEAST WAS MENTALLY DEFECTIVE WELL BEFORE THE SO-CALLED SYMBIOSIS EVER TOOK PLACE.
AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP YOUR OWN SELF ALIVE BY MORE CAUTIOUSLY CHOOSING YOUR WORDS, DOCTOR.
ALIEN PARASITE? NO...

...I AM
METALKRANG.

art by RAY-ANTHONY HEIGHT
colors by GIGI DUTREIX

art by FERO PE

ISSUE #135


AFTER CUTTING THE THIN PLACE CRYSTAL INTO SECTIONS, THE GAUNTLET INSTALLATION IS MUCH SMOOTHER.
THE ENERGY OF THE CRYSTAL FRAGMENTS--I HESITATE TO SAY MAGIC, MAYBE ARCANE ENERGY IS BETTER?--IS SUCCESSFULLY POWERING DR. LILJA'S GAUNTLET, BUT IT'S INEFFICIENT.
UNTIL I CAN DETERMINE WHERE THE CRYSTAL'S POWER ACTUALLY COMES FROM, I WON'T KNOW WHAT LIMITS THIS ENERGY HAS, BOTH PHYSICAL AND TEMPORAL.
IN ANY CASE, IT'S A VERY PROMISING START, AND I HOPE WHATEVER I CAN CREATE WITH THESE MATERIALS...
...WILL BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY.
DONATELLO?

AH! SERI!
EVOKE, THEN REVOKE...
WHY IS IT DARK?
OH, UH, I'M JUST WORKING ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE RIGHT NOW, THOUGH.
I NEED TO FOCUS BECAUSE EVENTUALLY THE UTROMS WILL FIND OUT YOU'RE HERE, AND I HAVE TO BE READY.
GUN STO
I WON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU, REGENTA SERI.
I WON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO ANYONE.

I GUESS WE'RE LOCKED DOWN NOW, SO YOU GUYS GOT HERE JUST IN TIME. NOBODY IN OR OUT.
BAD GUYS COULD GET IN.
IS THIS EVERYONE WHO'S DOWN HERE?
NAH, THERE'S DONATELLO AND SERI, TOO, BUT THEY'RE BUSY IN DONNIE'S LAB.
DON'T FORGET PEPPERONI AND KLUNK.
HERE I AM AGAIN.
OH, NEW FRIENDS!
HEY! SHEENA, JAY, JEFF...
...THIS IS SERI.

NICE TO MEET YOU. WHERE IS THE LATRINE?
THE WHAT?
I MEAN, THE BATHROOM.
OH, I'LL SHOW YOU!
WEIRD DUDE...
HE SMELLS FUNNY.
I'M SO HAPPY TO MEET SOME NEW PEOPLE.
I WISH I COULD MEET EVERYONE IN TOWN BUT THINGS ARE DANGEROUS RIGHT NOW BECAUSE...
...THERE ARE ALIENS TRYING TO ASSASSINATE ME!
HEY!
EVERYTHING OKAY?
YES! I'VE SUCCESSFULLY SHOWN JEFF WHERE THE BATHROOM IS.

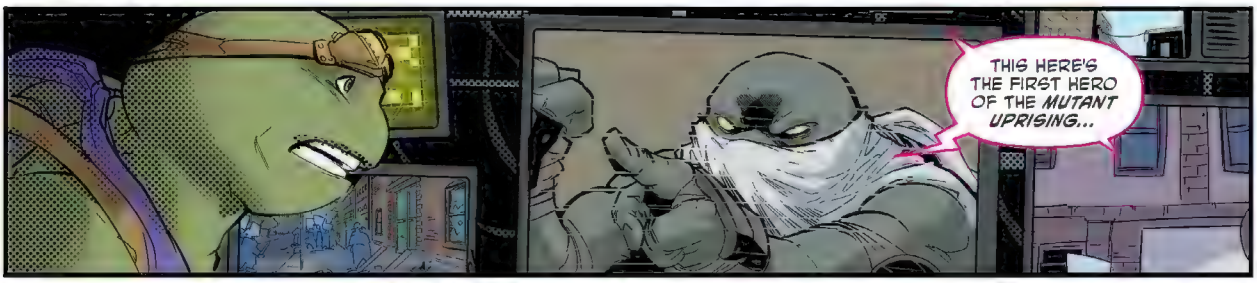
GOODBYE, JEFF! SEE YOU SOON!
YES.
COMMANDER. COME IN, OVER. TARGET LOCATED.
SENDING COORDINATES NOW.
POW
LAUREL, FELIX, STAY DOWN.
THWIP
WHOA--

HEY, JENNY.
ALOPEX! YES!
WHERE YOU BEEN?
AROUND.
WLND
I KEEP TELLING THESE PEOPLE TO GO HOME.
WE DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU.
BOOF
NO, BUT YOU DO HAVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.
I'VE BEEN OUT THERE TRYING TO HELP PEOPLE AND ALL THAT, TOO, BUT BOY, WHAT A MESS.
SLISH
KRAK
SOMEONE EVEN COCKTAILED MY SOUP KITCHEN.

UGH, YEAH, I SAW THAT.
LISTEN, ABOUT SHREDDER--
I DON'T CARE. I DON'T WANNA HEAR ABOUT IT.
YEAH, OKAY.
THESE CLOWNS AGAIN.
COME ON, YOU GUYS! I KNOW YOU'RE PISSED OFF. I AM, TOO.
YOU FINALLY GOT SOME POWER. I GET THAT.
BUT YOU CAN'T GO TERRORIZING PEOPLE AND WRECKING THEIR HOMES.
OOF!
SO SICK OF THIS!
BOMP

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
...WHERE IS THE ENERGY DRAWN FROM?!
WHAT THE...
HUH.
INCREDIBLE!

TO MOVE...
...IN A ROW...
CONTROL...
DON'T FADE AWAY, DON'T FADE...
YES. SPACE AND TIME...
LISTEN UP, MUTANT TOWN!


THIS HERE'S THE FIRST HERO OF THE *MUTANT UPRISING*...

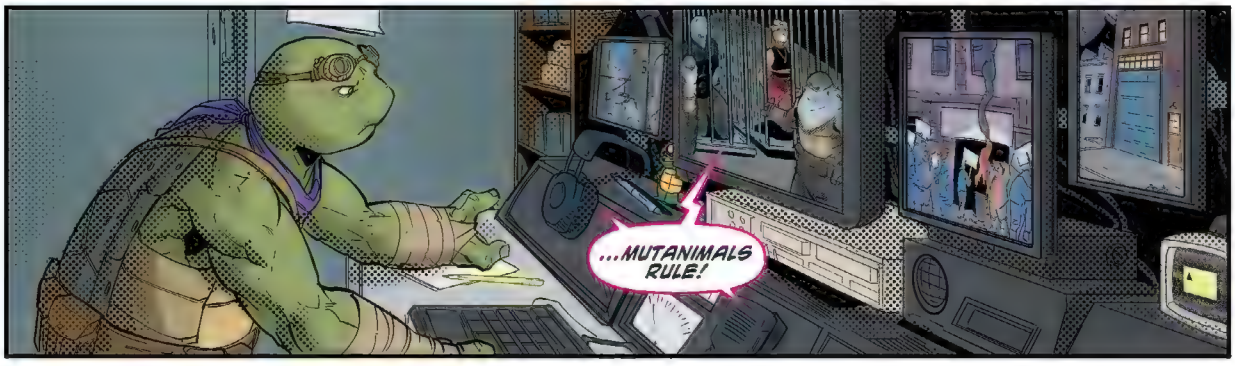
NO, NO NO...
MAN RAY, OUR *FELLOW MUTANIMAL*...

...WE'RE HERE TO *RELEASE* HIM FROM UNJUST IMPRISONMENT.

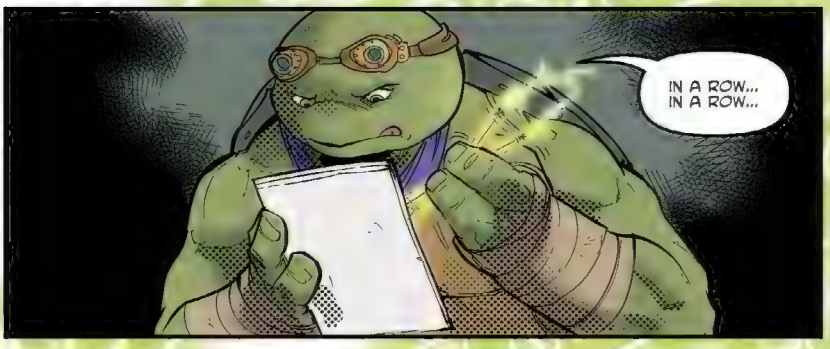
JENNY, COME IN!
GET TO CITY HALL *IMMEDIATELY*.

ON MY WAY! WHAT'S UP?
THE *DOPPËLGANGERS* ARE THERE *RIGHT NOW*...

...AND THEY HAVE *SALLY*.


...MUTANIMALS RULE!

I GOTTA MAKE THIS WORK.


IN A ROW... IN A ROW...

THE CONTROL OF SPACE...

...AND TIME.

THE TURTLES ARE *FRAUDS!*
THEY WERE *MUTANIMALS* THE *WHOLE TIME?*
KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
...ANOTHER STEP TOWARD MUTANT VICTORY!
LOOK.
BEHIND THE CAGE.
QUIET, YOU!
JOIN US, MUTANT TOWN! *MAN RAY* WILL LEAD THE MUTANIMALS TO *POWER!*
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANY--

THIS WHOLE THING...
...IS FAKE.
AGH!
BUNCHA POSERS!
BOK
DEFINITELY NOT MY RAPH.
SKWASH
WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS ABOUT?!
GISH
FALL BACK!

WHERE YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOIN'?
FIRST SHREDDER, NOW *HOB*?!
ALOPEX?
AL, WE--
I'M SO *DONE* WITH ALL THIS.

WHAT! HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!
TOLD YOU I WAS GOOD AT THIS GAME!
PEPPERONI, COME BACK!
PEPPERONIIII...

MMF--
SKLTCH
SLURK
BRONK
HEY, DID YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?
OH MY GOD!
LITA, GO GET DONNIE FAST!

UNCLE DONNIE!
HE-- MY POISON'S NOT WORKING?!
AAH!
ANGEL?
DONNIE, I GOT AN UTROM PROBLEM HERE.
RRRRRGGH
KRAZZZK
WONK
OKAY, JUST HOLD ON, ANGEL, I'LL--
KNOK KNOK
UNCLE DONNIE!
BZZZAAAK
DIE!
YAM

THERE, UNCLE DON!
HEY!
GET AWAY FROM MY FRIENDS!
ZZRK
OH--
BZAAAK
AGGGH!
AAAAH!
OH GEEZ, SENSEI, ARE YOU OKAY?!
...WHY DIDN'T IT WORK? WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
URRRGH... STUPID GAUNTLET...

STAY BACK, EVERYONE.
STAND STRONG, DONATELLO!
GRRAAAHH!
THANKS, SERI--
KRAK
KROK
--AND YOU REMEMBERED MY NAME THIS TIME!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT, SENSEI?
LONG STORY. EVERYONE OKAY?
WHAT IS HE? AN EVIL CYBORG?
NOT EXACTLY, JAY.
DON'T GET SO CLOSE!
IT'S OKAY, I THINK HE'S--

AAAH!
KRRZZK
TERMINATE...
...TARGET...
KRRKZZ
HISS

art by KEVIN EASTMAN & SOPHIE CAMPBELL

art by ROI MERCADO
colors by WILLIAM SORRES

THE ALLIANCE #2

HOW'D YOU GET ALL THE WAY UP *HERE?*
=SNIFF= =SNIFF=
HEY THERE, LITTLE *DUDE.*
=SNIFF= =SNIFF= =SNIFF=
YOU LOST?
ARF, ARF!
YEAH, WELL... I GUESS I KINDA AM, *TOO,* IN A WAY.
WUMMMF
THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN *SMELLIN',* HUH? YOU *HUNGRY,* DUDE?
ARF!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT--HOW ABOUT WE MAKE A *DEAL?* I'LL *SHARE* MY LAST SLICE IF YOU LET ME *SHARE* A FEW THINGS WITH YOU, *HUH?* I COULD USE A GOOD *LISTENER* RIGHT ABOUT NOW. SOUND GOOD?
ARF!

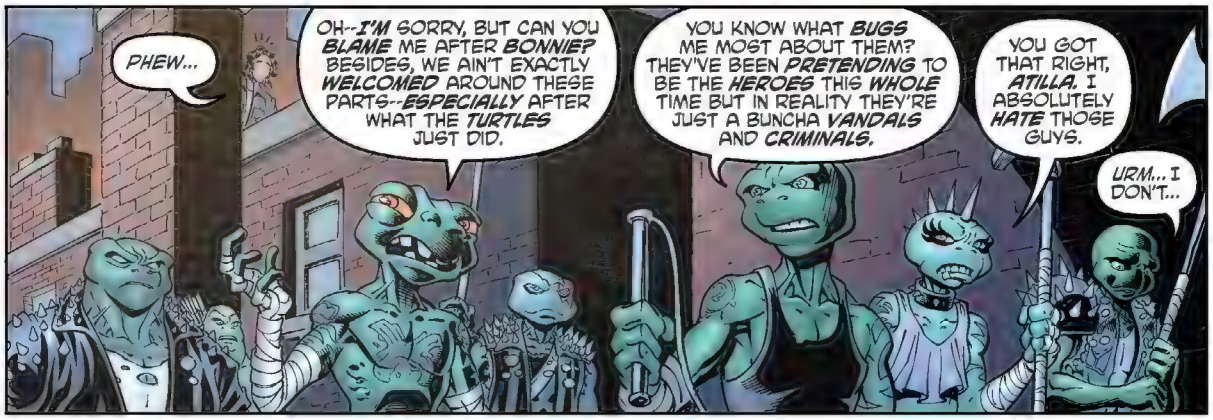
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, PAL. IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOME COMPANY FOR A CHANGE ON ONE OF THESE LOOKOUTS.
THINGS ARE CRAZY OUT HERE RIGHT NOW...
MY BEST FRIEND, RAPH, WHO I USUALLY GO TO WITH THESE TYPES OF THINGS, AIN'T GOT TIME FOR ME EVER SINCE HE GOT BITTEN HARD BY THE LOVE-BUG FOR THIS GIRL, ALOPEX.
GOD KNOWS THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH WITH LOSING THEIR DAD AND ALL, BUT--YOU KNOW WHAT?
I...LOST MY DAD, TOO.
AND NO ONE'S REALLY TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT.
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THEM TO--CONSIDERING THAT HE WAS A MEAN, DRUNKEN, ABUSIVE JERK-HOLE THAT MADE ALL OUR LIVES A LIVING HELL--BUT...
...HE WAS STILL MY DAD. AND BEFORE WE LOST MA TO THE CANCER, HE WASN'T THAT BAD FOR THE MOST PART.
LOOK, I AIN'T MAKING EXCUSES FOR THE GUY. HE WAS A REAL PIECE OF WORK.
I GUESS I'VE COME TO LEARN RECENTLY THAT GRIEF MAKES YOU DO FUNNY THINGS.
HE TURNED TO THE DRINK IN ORDER TO COPE WITH LOSING MA, AND IT'S SOMETHING I TOLD MYSELF I'D NEVER DO, BUT LATELY...
...WELL, LATELY I'VE HAD A FEW BEERS AFTER A LONG DAY AND IT'S KIND OF...HELPED--YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
AND MY BUDDY, RAPH? WELL I GUESS WHEN HE SAW SOME OF THE EMPTIES AT MY PAD, HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT I WAS TURNING INTO MY DAD.
WHICH I CAN TOTALLY SEE WHY HE'D THINK THAT, BUT AT THE SAME TIME...IT'S KINDA MESSED UP, YOU KNOW?
LIKE, HE KNOWS ME--BETTER THAN ANYONE! IF IT EVER BECAME A PROBLEM LIKE IT WAS FOR MY OLD MAN THEN I'D NIP IT IN THE BUD, NO QUESTIONS ASKED. BUT HE JUST... ASSUMED THAT I WAS GOING DOWN THE SAME PATH AS MY FATHER, AND I AIN'T GONNA LIE...

...THAT REALLY HURT.
AND WE AIN'T EXACTLY TALKED THAT ONE OUT YET. LAST TIME I SAW HIM IT CAME TO BLOWS.
SURE, WE LAUGHED IT OFF AFTER A FEW GOOD LICKS, BUT NOTHING WAS REALLY RESOLVED AND WE HAVEN'T TALKED SINCE...
AND NOW... NOW I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYONE, YA KNOW? I'M KINDA A STRAY JUST LIKE YOU. NO MOM, NO DAD, NO PURPLE DRAGONS-- WELL, NOT SINCE I SPLIT FROM THEM.
THEY KINDA TURNED INTO A BUNCH OF ANTI-MUTANT IDIOTS AFTER THOSE POSER TURTLES ATTACKED STOCKMAN AND HIS BUILDING.
THERE'S ALSO MY GOOD FRIEND AND EX, APRIL, AND WE AIN'T AS CLOSE AS WE WAS SINCE WE BROKE UP, AND SHE'S ALWAYS SUPER BUSY WITH ALL THE CRAZY POLITICS SURROUNDING MUTANT TOWN.
LEO AND MIKEY ARE OFF IN DIMENSION X AND Z, RAPH IS OFF TO NORTH BORDER ISLAND TRYING TO RECRUIT OLD HOB AND THEN...
...THERE'S JENNIKA.
SEEIN' HER THE OTHER DAY WAS--
ARF! ARF!
HUH? HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! I AIN'T DONE YET!
COME ON, US STRAYS GOTTA STICK--
--TOGETHER...

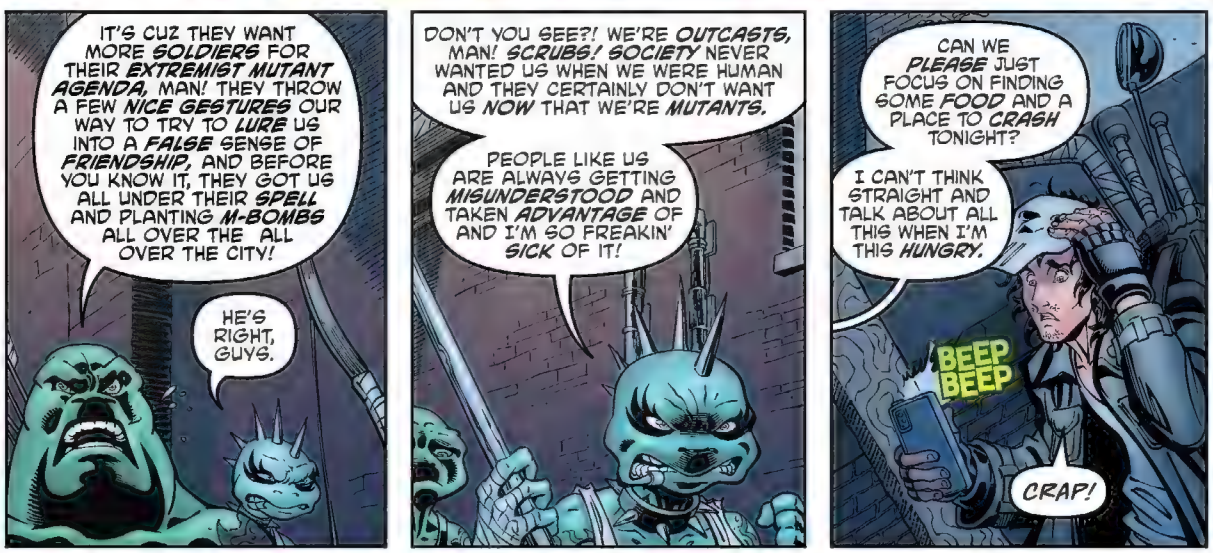
THERE YOU ARE, SCOUT!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT THERE ALL ON YOUR OWN, HUH?
WELL THANKS FOR THE CHAT ANYWAY, LITTLE DUDE. LOOKS LIKE A REAL NICE HOME YOU GOT THERE.
BEEP BEEP
DONNIE INCOMING C
HEY, DONNIE! EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
HEY, CASEY. ANYTHING TO REPORT?
NAH. IT'S BEEN PRETTY QUIET TONIGHT. FOLKS STILL AREN'T HAPPY WITH YOU GUYS... THEY THINK YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED AT THE TCRI BUILDING.
MUTANT TOWN'S CERTAINLY NOT QUIET. THINGS ARE ESCALATING HERE EVERY NIGHT...
OH YEAH? YOU GUYS NEED MY HELP AGAIN?
THE RIOTS ARE GETTING WORSE. THANKS FOR HELPING JENNY THE OTHER NIGHT.
BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS KEEP WATCH OUTSIDE THE WALL.
DONNIE'S TOOLS
KEEP OUT
PENNY'S PIZZA
SURE THING, DONNIE. HEY, SO... HOW ARE YOU ALL DOING AFTER THE BOMBING? HOW'S RAPH?
LOOK, CASE. I CAN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT THIS RIGHT NOW. WE'LL CATCH UP LATER, OKAY?
JUST KEEP A LOW PROFILE AND CONTACT US IF THERE'S ANY TROUBLE.
OH... OKAY THEN. YOU GOT IT. CATCH YOU LATER, DUDE...
TALK SOON.
YEAH... TALK SOON...
EW, YUCK!
CLICK
HUH?

PIZZA AGAIN?! I'M SO SICK OF OLD PIZZA!
AH, QUIT YOUR WHINING, GENGHIS.
EVER HEAR THE PHRASE "BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS"? WELL, YOU'RE LIVING IT, PAL.
KEEP IT DOWN, WOULD YA? YOU'LL WAKE THE WHOLE DAMN NEIGHBORHOOD AND THIS AIN'T EXACTLY FRIENDLY TURF.
YEAH, AND I AIN'T GOING HUNGRY LIKE YESTERDAY. JUST GRAB WHAT YOU CAN AND LET'S MOVE ON!
PUNK FROGS?! WHAT ARE THEY DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?!
THIS SPOT IS TOTALLY TAPPED. LET'S TRY ANOTHER ALLEY.
OKAY, LOW PROFILE, CASE. JUST AS DONNIE SAID.
I'VE SEEN THE TURTLES DO THEIR NINJA STALKING THING LIKE A THOUSAND TIMES. HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT A BITE OF THIS? MIGHT BE ALL WE FIND OUT HERE TONIGHT.
I'D RATHER EAT MY OWN LEGS, MARY...
I HEAR THAT'S ALL THOSE TURTLE DUDES EAT.
YEA, WHEN THEY'RE NOT BUSY DOING CRAZY THINGS LIKE BLOWING UP THE TCRI BUILDING...
THEY'VE ALL GONE OFF THE DEEP END IF YOU ASK ME.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO WAY THE TURTLES DID THAT!
HUH? DID YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?

HEAR WHAT?
I SWEAR I JUST HEARD SOMEONE UP THERE.
I DIDN'T HEAR NOTHIN', MAN.
NEITHER DID I.
I GUESS IT WAS JUST ME, THEN...
YOU'RE SO FREAKIN' PARANOID ALL THE TIME, CLYDE.


PHEW...
OH--I'M SORRY, BUT CAN YOU BLAME ME AFTER BONNIE? BESIDES, WE AIN'T EXACTLY WELCOMED AROUND THESE PARTS--ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT THE TURTLES JUST DID.
YOU KNOW WHAT BUGS ME MOST ABOUT THEM? THEY'VE BEEN PRETENDING TO BE THE HEROES THIS WHOLE TIME BUT IN REALITY THEY'RE JUST A BUNCHA VANDALS AND CRIMINALS.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, ATILLA. I ABSOLUTELY HATE THOSE GUYS.
URM... I DON'T...

WHAT?! YOU LIKE THOSE FREAKS, GENGHIS?
IT'S JUST THAT-- I DON'T KNOW...
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME! THE LAST TIME WE SAW THE TURTLES, SOME OF THEM SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE REALLY TRYING TO REACH OUT WITH A FRIENDLY GESTURE-- TRYING TO LET US KNOW THAT WE BELONG TOO, YA KNOW?
HIS NAME WAS MIKEY AND ALL HE WANTED WAS TO BE MY FRIEND. I MEAN, WE HAD JUST BURNT DOWN THEIR DOJO AND HE SEEMED REALLY NICE...
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. I TALKED TO ONE OF THEM AFTER I FOUND WHAT WAS LEFT OF BONNIE AND REALISED THAT THEY NEVER TOOK HER.
HE SEEMED PRETTY NICE TOO...
WHY? I'LL TELL YOU WHY.


IT'S CUZ THEY WANT MORE SOLDIERS FOR THEIR EXTREMIST MUTANT AGENDA, MAN! THEY THROW A FEW NICE GESTURES OUR WAY TO TRY TO LURE US INTO A FALSE SENSE OF FRIENDSHIP, AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THEY GOT US ALL UNDER THEIR SPELL AND PLANTING M-BOMBS ALL OVER THE ALL OVER THE CITY!
HE'S RIGHT, GUYS.
DON'T YOU SEE?! WE'RE OUTCASTS, MAN! SCRUBS! SOCIETY NEVER WANTED US WHEN WE WERE HUMAN AND THEY CERTAINLY DON'T WANT US NOW THAT WE'RE MUTANTS.
PEOPLE LIKE US ARE ALWAYS GETTING MISUNDERSTOOD AND TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AND I'M SO FREAKIN' SICK OF IT!
CAN WE PLEASE JUST FOCUS ON FINDING SOME FOOD AND A PLACE TO CRASH TONIGHT?
I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT AND TALK ABOUT ALL THIS WHEN I'M THIS HUNGRY.
BEEP BEEP
CRAP!

WHAT WAS THAT?!
OKAY, I DEFINITELY HEARD SOMETHING THIS TIME.
10:05
JOHN O'NE
Casey, my boy! It sure has been awhile. Why don't you hop on down to the store next time you're free. Beth and I could really use your help with something!
FEELING LOST? CALL: 1-800-FINDYOU FOR MORE DETAILS
BEEP BEEP
HOW DO YOU SILENCE THIS FREAKIN' THING?
I THINK IT'S COMING FROM UP THERE!
OH MAN. I KNEW WE WERE BEING TAILED!
BEEP BEEP
10:05
JOHN O'NEIL
really use your help with something!
See you soon, Kiddo!
SHOW YOURSELF!
EH, SORRY, DONNIE, BUT KEEPING A LOW PROFILE WAS NEVER REALLY MY STYLE ANYWAY.
EVENING, PUNKS.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...
WHOA!
HEY, ISN'T THIS GUY WITH THE TURTLES?
YOU'VE GOT ABOUT TEN SECONDS TO CRAWL BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM BEFORE I MINCE YOU ALL INTO A FRENCH DELICACY.
PLEASE, WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT.
WE AIN'T GOT NO PLACE TO GO, MAN!

OH YEAH? IS THAT WHY YOU ATTACKED ME AND MY FRIENDS THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU?
I AIN'T BUYING THE SOB STORY. EITHER GET LOST OR GET SOME.
WE ALREADY ARE LOST, DIPWEED. CAN'T YOU TELL?

ENOUGH OF THIS! I'M SICK OF IT!

YOU WANT TO FIGHT, GREASEBALL? YOU GOT ONE.
RASPUTIN! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING!

I'M DONE, MAN. I'M TIRED OF BEING SENT AWAY BY EVERY LIVING BEING WE ENCOUNTER.
WE PROMISED THAT WE'D FIND A NEW HIDEOUT IN THIS PART OF TOWN, AND I PLAN ON KEEPING THAT PROMISE, NO MATTER THE COST.

YOUR HOME IS MUTANT TOWN, NOT HERE.
GYAH! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
WHACK
THIS IS A GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD, WITH GOOD PEOPLE.
WE STAND UP TO ANARCHISTS LIKE YOU HERE.
US?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! YOUR LITTLE GREEN FRIENDS JUST BLEW UP A FREAKIN' BUILDING AND YOU'RE CALLING US ANARCHISTS?!
GUYS! BE CAREFUL! HE'S UNHINGED, JUST LIKE THOSE TURTLES ARE NOW!

NEWS FLASH, JOCKSTRAP, WE AIN'T THE BAD GUYS HERE.
WE'RE JUST TRYING TO FIND A PLACE TO SETTLE DOWN AWAY FROM ALL THE MADNESS YOU AND YOUR CREW KEEP CAUSING!
KFWIA!
WOLF COLA
THAT'S NOT TRUE! THEY DIDN'T DO THAT!
DUDE, THEY GOT CAUGHT RED-HANDED! WE ALL SAW IT!
GLAMAZON

YOU'RE EXPOSED, MAN. WE ALL FINALLY SAW WHO THE REAL NINJA TURTLES ARE.
NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF RADICAL TERRORIST SCU--
ENOUGH!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. THEY'RE MY FRIENDS--MY BROTHERS!
AND THEY'RE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO MAKE THIS CITY A SAFER PLACE FOR YOU AND YOUR FELLOW MUTANT KIND.
DON'T YOU SEE? THEY'RE BEING FRAMED FOR THE BOMBING TO DIVIDE US. TO...
...TO...TO MAKE US TURN ON ONE ANOTHER...
WELL, WELL, WELL...

WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE, FELLAS? LOOKS LIKE OUR OLD, SO-CALLED MUTANT SYMPHATHIZER LEADER IS OUT BUSTIN' SOME MUCH-NEEDED MUTIE SKULL.
ONCE A DRAGON, ALWAYS A DRAGON, AYE, CASE?
BIT HYPOCRITICAL OF YOU DITCHING US FOR ALWAYS DOING THIS TYPE OF STUFF, AIN'T IT?
BACK OFF, MALO. THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
OH, BUT I THINK IT DOES.
WHO THE HECK ARE THESE CLOWNS?
JUST A BUNCH OF LEADERLESS LOSERS LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
YOU'RE DEAD WRONG ON THAT ONE, CASE.
IT'S A NEW DAY FOR THE PURPLE DRAGONS.
CHUN, LINK, AND I ARE ALL CO-LEADERS NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT. WE AIN'T HUN'S OR THE FOOT CLAN'S LACKEYS NO MORE.
AND WE AIN'T YOURS EITHER. YOU ABANDONED US, CASEY. WE WERE YOUR CREW--YOUR FAMILY, OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT YOU LED US TO THINK...

SO EITHER FINISH THE BEATIN' YOU WAS JUST HANDING OUT TO THESE MUTANT FREAKS OR GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR WAY.
THEY HAVE US SURROUNDED.
THERE'S NO WAY OUT!
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT.
WE?!
LOOK. WHATEVER BEEF WE MAY HAVE CAN WAIT. THESE GUYS AREN'T MESSING AROUND. I LEFT THEM BECAUSE THEY TURNED INTO A MASSIVE HATE GROUP FOR MUTANTS AFTER THE RECENT EXPLOSION.
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU. IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF LONG ENOUGH TO FIND A WINDOW TO ESCAPE.
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO ME.
HOW DO WE KNOW THIS AIN'T SOME KINDA TRICK?
I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME.
SO WHAT'LL IT BE, CASEY JONES? ARE YOU ONE OF THEM OR ONE OF US?
MALO, YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A TRICK TO ME!
I NEVER WAS ONE OF YOU!
PAKWHACK
SON OF A--!

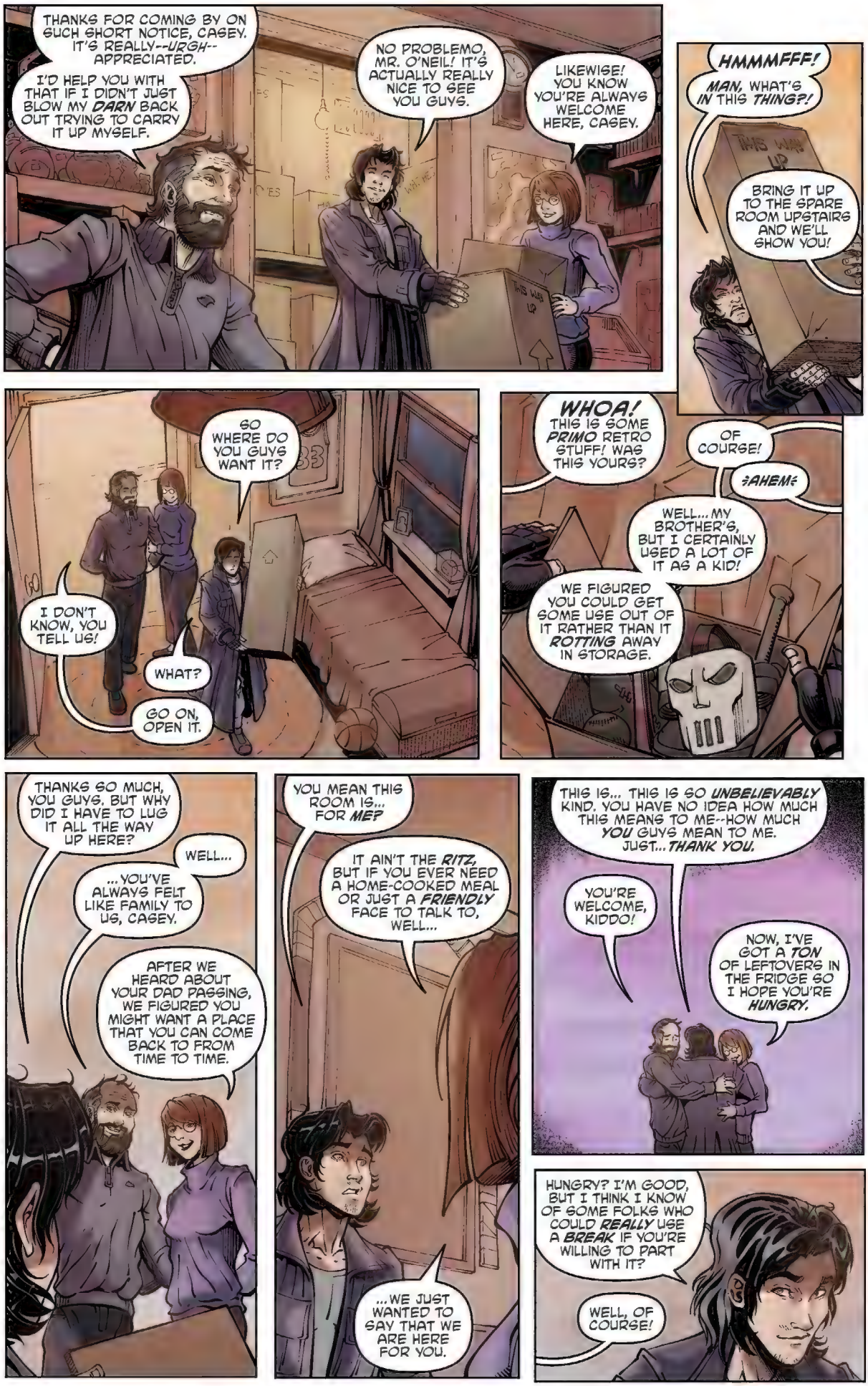
OKAY, PUNKS. CIRCLE FORMATION. EVERYONE DEFENDS THE ONE TO THEIR LEFT. GOT IT?
Got it!
OH PLEASE. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? YOU LOOK LIKE A TADPOLE IN A BIG, BAD POND, SWEETHEART.
OH YEAH? WELL YOU LOOK AS DUMB AS A BAG OF HAMMERS!
KRACK
NICE ONE, MARY!
THANKS! KINDA BEEN SAVING THAT ONE!
MARY! LOOK OUT!
WHOA!
THANKS, UH, MAN...
THWAP
NO PROBLEM. JUST STAY FOCUSED.

GYAHK! ONE OF THEMS IS CHOKING ME!
I GOT YOU, BOSS!
CHOMP
WHAT THE?!
STICK AROUND.
HEY! YOU STOLE THAT! ORIGINAL QUIPS ONLY, PEOPLE!
YOU KNOW IT WAS PERFECT.
I'LL NEVER ADMIT THAT...
GUYS! DON'T BREAK THE FORMATION!
I HAVE YOU NOW, TRAITOR.
SAY HELLO TO YOUR FATHER FOR ME WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO HELL, YOU MUTANT-SYMPH!
HUH?
NOT SO FAST, CREEP...
CHOMP
GAH! MY FREAKIN' HAND, MAN!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FREAKIN' BACK, MY DUDE!
TAWAK

DID YOU GUYS SEE THAT KICK? MAN, I LOVE BEING A FROG!
HOW'S ABOUT THIS ONE!
ACK!
POONTH
TAKE A GOOD, LONG LOOK AT WHO YOU'RE DEFENDING, YOU IDIOT!
THEY'RE FREAKS OF NATURE, CASEY!
YOUR DAD CERTAINLY KNEW THAT, AND WE THOUGHT YOU DID, TOO.
ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU STRAIGHT-UP DITCHED YOUR BROAD WHEN SHE TURNED INTO ONE OF THOSE DISGUSTING GREEN FREAKS. WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN?
MAN, SHE WAS SOME PIECE OF TAIL BEFORE SHE MUTATED INTO THAT--
SHUT UP!
SPLICH
ALL OF YOU, JUST SHUT UP!

DON'T YOU SEE? I NEVER WANTED TO LEAD ANY OF YOU!
IT WAS A FAVOR TO SPLINTER--A GREAT MAN WHO WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD SITUATION.
AND I THINK DEEP DOWN EVEN HE KNEW THERE WASN'T MUCH HOPE IN TURNING THE PURPLE DRAGONS INTO A FORCE OF GOOD. MAYBE WITH ME LEADING IT, I GUESS HE FIGURED THERE WAS AT LEAST SOME.
GYAH!
WELL I DEFINITELY LEARNED AFTER SPENDING ENOUGH TIME WITH THE LIKES OF YOU THAT THERE NEVER WAS ANY HOPE. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF--
--NO-GOOD--
--SELF-ENTITLED--
--LOW-LIFE--
--MUTANT-HATING--
--SCUMBAGS!
THE STINK OF MY FATHER IS STILL ALL OVER YOU, AND IT'S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY TO CHANGE THAT ANYMORE.
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN THAT THESE GUYS AREN'T THE REAL MONSTERS. IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU WITH SO MUCH MISGUIDED HATE IN THEIR HEARTS.
COME ON, PUNKS, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
YOU HEARD THE MAN. LET'S MOVE!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
WOW, MAN! WE REALLY KICKED SOME BUTT BACK THERE! WAHOO!
CHALK UP A VICTORY FOR THE PUNK FROGS!
ABOUT DAMN TIME...
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? THAT SEEMED LIKE SOME PRETTY HEAVY STUFF YOU WERE LETTING OUT BACK THERE WHEN YOU WERE WAILING ON THAT GUY.
...
THANKS. IT WAS, ACTUALLY. I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A LOT OF STUFF LATELY, AND I GUESS IT'S BEEN BUILDING UP.
WELL, IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT, I'D BE GLAD TO. I'VE RECENTLY BEEN HAVING SOME ISSUES MYSELF...
OH, UH... THANK YOU. I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND!
SO WHAT NOW?
I GUESS WE KEEP LOOKING FOR FOOD AND SHELTER.
OH MAN, I JUST REMEMBERED HOW HUNGRY I AM...
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CASE?
I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE I NEED TO BE. I'LL CATCH YOU GUYS LATER, OKAY?
HEY, THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING US.
WE DON'T GET MUCH HELP FROM ANYONE THESE DAYS...
WELL YOU'RE NOT ALONE ON THAT ONE. US STRAYS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER, RIGHT? JUST TRY TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.
WILL DO. COME ON, GUYS. PLENTY OF UNTAPPED DUMPSTERS LEFT ON THIS BLOCK!

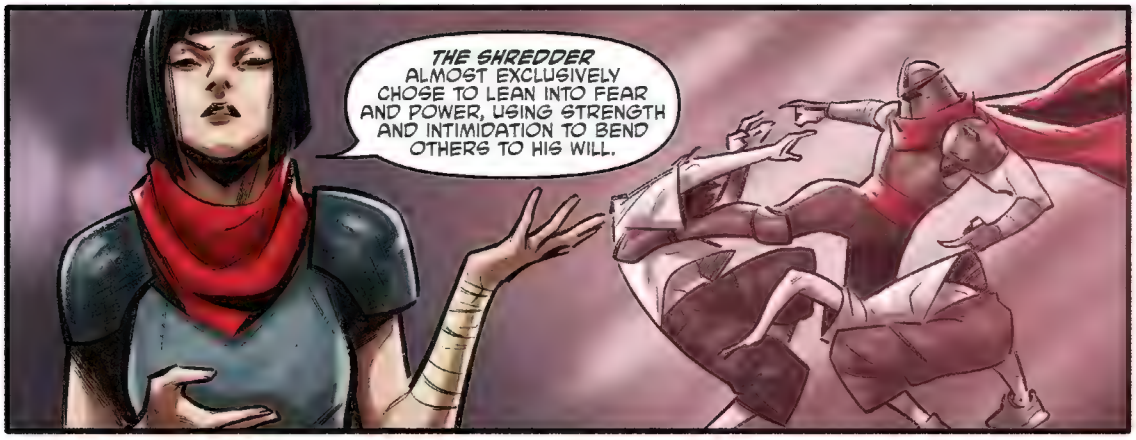

THANKS FOR COMING BY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, CASEY. IT'S REALLY--URGH-- APPRECIATED.
I'D HELP YOU WITH THAT IF I DIDN'T JUST BLOW MY DARN BACK OUT TRYING TO CARRY IT UP MYSELF.
NO PROBLEMO, MR. O'NEIL! IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY NICE TO SEE YOU GUYS.
LIKEWISE! YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE, CASEY.
HMMMFFF!
MAN, WHAT'S IN THIS THING?!
BRING IT UP TO THE SPARE ROOM UPSTAIRS AND WE'LL SHOW YOU!
SO WHERE DO YOU GUYS WANT IT?
I DON'T KNOW, YOU TELL US!
WHAT?
GO ON, OPEN IT.
WHOA! THIS IS SOME PRIMO RETRO STUFF! WAS THIS YOURS?
OF COURSE!
AHEM
WELL... MY BROTHER'S, BUT I CERTAINLY USED A LOT OF IT AS A KID!
WE FIGURED YOU COULD GET SOME USE OUT OF IT RATHER THAN IT ROTTING AWAY IN STORAGE.
THANKS SO MUCH, YOU GUYS. BUT WHY DID I HAVE TO LUG IT ALL THE WAY UP HERE?
WELL...
...YOU'VE ALWAYS FELT LIKE FAMILY TO US, CASEY.
AFTER WE HEARD ABOUT YOUR DAD PASSING, WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT WANT A PLACE THAT YOU CAN COME BACK TO FROM TIME TO TIME.
YOU MEAN THIS ROOM IS... FOR ME?
IT AIN'T THE RITZ, BUT IF YOU EVER NEED A HOME-COOKED MEAL OR JUST A FRIENDLY FACE TO TALK TO, WELL...
...WE JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.
THIS IS... THIS IS SO UNBELIEVABLY KIND. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME--HOW MUCH YOU GUYS MEAN TO ME. JUST... THANK YOU.
YOU'RE WELCOME, KIDDO!
NOW, I'VE GOT A TON OF LEFTOVERS IN THE FRIDGE SO I HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY.
HUNGRY? I'M GOOD, BUT I THINK I KNOW OF SOME FOLKS WHO COULD REALLY USE A BREAK IF YOU'RE WILLING TO PART WITH IT?
WELL, OF COURSE!

YOU GUYS FIND ANYTHING?
JUST MORE ROTTING ITALIAN FOOD.
HOW ABOUT MEXICAN?
CASEY! YOU'RE BACK!
WHAT'S WITH THE BAGS, CASE?
WELL, I'M LEARNING TO COPE WITH ALL THE LOSS IN MY LIFE LATELY.
MY FAMILY, THE PURPLE DRAGONS, A FEW GIRLFRIENDS, AND THERE'S A SLOW DRIFT-APART THAT'S BEEN GROWING WITH ME AND MY BUDDIES.
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL LIKE THERE'RE NO ONE THERE FOR YOU.
AND TONIGHT I WAS REMINDED THAT THERE'S ALWAYS GOOD PEOPLE DOING GOOD THINGS OUT THERE FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.
SO HERE. IT AIN'T MUCH, BUT I FIGURED YOU GUYS COULD DO WITH A DECENT HOME-COOKED MEAL FOR TONIGHT.
DUDE! TACOS!
MY FAVORITE!
IS THAT?!
THANK YOU, CASEY. THIS MEANS A LOT.
YOU'RE WELCOME. AND HEY, JUST REMEMBER TO PAY IT FORWARD. SOMETIMES PEOPLE FORGET THAT THERE'S STILL SOME GOOD OUT THERE, YA KNOW? AND I KNOW YOU GUYS THINK THE TURTLES ARE THE BAD GUYS, BUT I'M TELLING YOU THEY'RE NOT. WE JUST GOTTA CLEAR THEIR GOOD NAME IS ALL. YOU'LL SEE.
CAN'T SAY THAT I'M ONE-HUNDRED-PERCENT CONVINCED, BUT, HEY, WE THOUGHT YOU WAS ROTTEN AND YOU'VE CERTAINLY PROVED THAT YOU AIN'T.
YOU KIDDING ME? CASEYS THE MAN!
BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR SEARCH FOR A NEW HOME, GUYS. AND AGAIN, STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!
SEE YOU AROUND, BIG GUY. AND DON'T FORGET WHAT I SAID.
I WON'T.
THERE'S SO MUCH CONFUSION IN THE CITY RIGHT NOW. MISINFORMATION SEEMS TO BE EVERYWHERE, AND THE ONLY ONES BENEFITING FROM IT ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT TO HURT US.
BOTH THE O'NEILS AND THE PUNK FROGS REMINDED ME TODAY THAT I'M NOT AS ALONE IN THIS WORLD AS I THOUGHT AND THAT SOMETIMES LIFE IS JUST HARD.
I JUST HOPE, FOR ALL OUR SAKES, THAT IT GETS A LITTLE EASIER REAL SOON.
GOD KNOWS WE COULD ALL USE IT...

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.
CASEY JONES IS AN UNCONVENTIONAL FIGHTER... BUT HE HAS A GREAT FORCE OF WILL. HE DOES NOT TAKE THE EASY PATH WHEN THE RIGHT ONE IS AVAILABLE... AND HE HAS DISPLAYED GREAT LOYALTY TO THOSE WHO HAVE DESERVED IT, DESPITE BEING THE SON OF ONE WHO COULD NOT.
PRECISELY THE KIND OF ALLY I WISH TO ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES WITH.
...ARE YOU KIDDING ME RIGHT NOW?
NO.
RECENT EVENTS HAVE CAUSED ME TO RETHINK MY EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FOOT CLAN, CASEY JONES. I WANT IT TO BE SOMETHING MORE. SOMETHING NEITHER THE SHREDDER NOR SPLINTER COULD MOLD IT INTO.
AND FOR THAT--
--I REQUIRE HELP.

THAT'S RICH. YOU REMEMBER YOU ATTACKED MY GIRLFRIEND ONCE, RIGHT? AND NOW YOU WANT MY HELP? SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ASKING ME TO JOIN A GANG, AND I'M NOT INTERESTED IN DOING THAT AGAIN.
AND IF YOU WANT A NINJA TEAM-UP SO BAD, GO TALK TO LEONARDO.
LEONARDO AND HIS CLAN HAVE *THEIR OWN* PATH TO WALK. IT MAY CROSS WITH OURS FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT IT IS *NOT* THE SAME.
AND YOU'RE SAYING MINE IS? COME ON.
WHAT I AM SAYING, CASEY JONES, IS THAT THE FOOT CLAN HAS EXISTED FOR *CENTURIES.*
WE HAVE BEEN THIEVES, YES, AND ASSASSINS, BUT ALSO PROTECTORS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. THERE WAS A BALANCE OF PROFIT, HONOR, AND STRIKING FEAR THROUGH POWER.
AND THAT BALANCE HAS BEEN *LOST.*

MY FATHER, YORI, CONCERNED HIMSELF ONLY WITH MONEY.
HE MANIPULATED FINANCES LIKE A MASTER SWORDSMAN WIELDS A BLADE. HE COULD CREATE OR DESTROY ON A WHIM.


THE SHREDDER ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY CHOSE TO LEAN INTO FEAR AND POWER, USING STRENGTH AND INTIMIDATION TO BEND OTHERS TO HIS WILL.

AND SPLINTER'S WAY WAS ONE OF HONOR, DESPITE OCCASIONAL VIOLENCE.

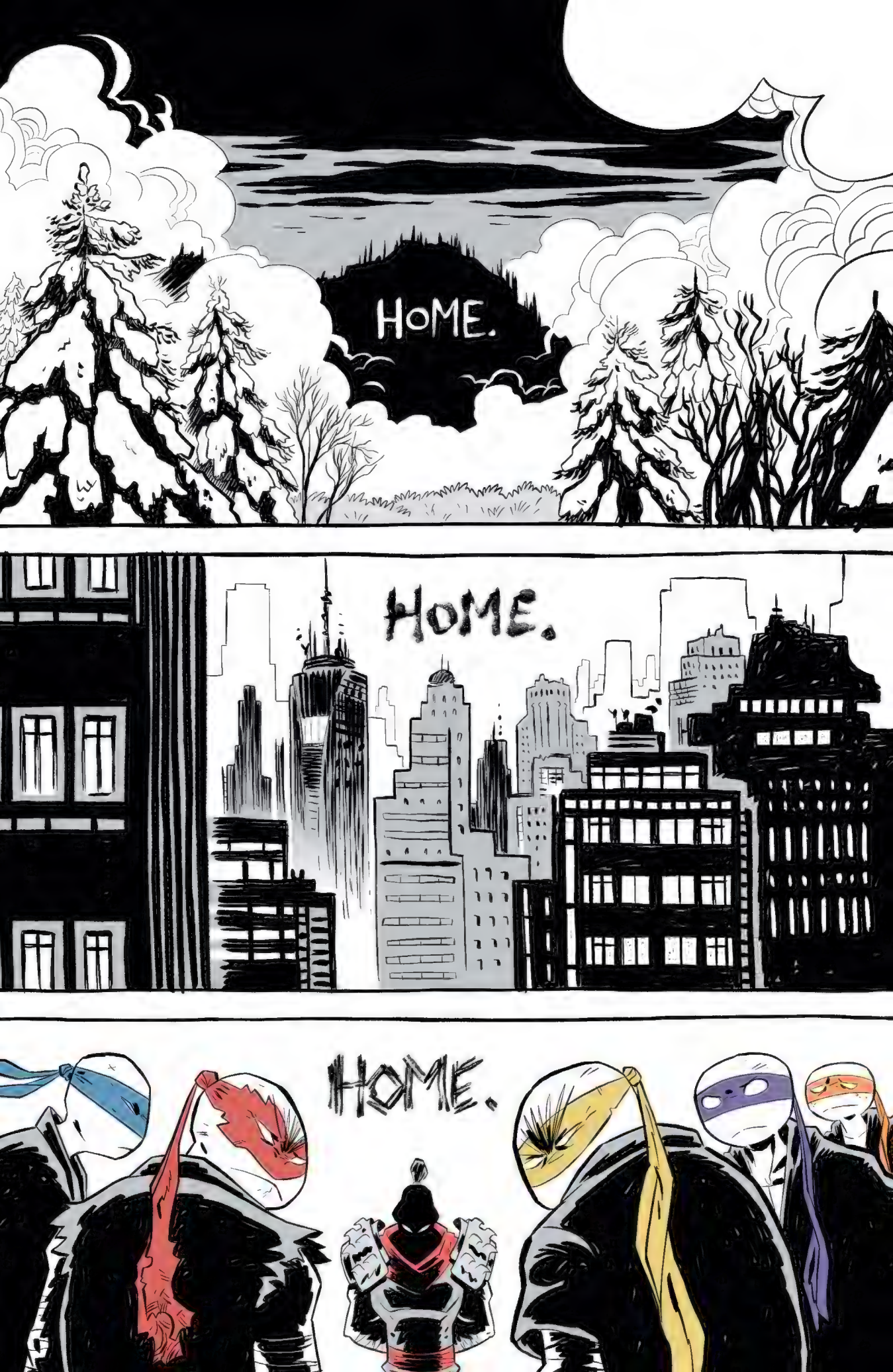
THERE HAS NOT BEEN BALANCE TO THE FOOT CLAN FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
I THOUGHT THAT RESURRECTING MY GRANDFATHER WOULD BE ENOUGH, BUT HE DID NOT BRING ALL THE OLD WAYS WITH HIM... ONLY THE ONES THAT SUITED HIM.
I REALIZED RECENTLY THAT I WOULD NEED TO CORRECT THIS. TO STRENGTHEN THE FOOT CLAN. AND THAT IS WHY I COME TO YOU, CASEY--
--FOR YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

YOU HAVE A UNIQUE POINT OF VIEW. YOU'VE BEEN A LONE VIGILANTE. A LEADER TO THE PURPLE DRAGONS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH BUT NOT BOUND BY ALLEGIANCE TO A CLAN. YOU WOULD BE A RELIABLE ADVISOR. I COME TO YOU ALONE, OUT OF RESPECT...
...TO HUMBLY ASK YOU TO BE THAT FOR ME.
WAIT, Y-YOU JUST WANT MY ADVICE?
I WOULD ALSO WELCOME YOU AS AN ALLY IN BATTLE WHEN APPROPRIATE... BUT THAT IS NOT YOUR TRUE VALUE.
GEE, THANKS.
YOU KNOW MY WORLD, CASEY JONES, BUT YOU ARE NOT A PART OF IT. YOU WILL SEE THINGS THAT I DO NOT... AND I WOULD CONSIDER IT AN HONOR IF YOU WOULD HELP BALANCE MY OWN INSTINCTS TO THE BENEFIT OF MY CLAN... AND PERHAPS STEER US AWAY FROM ANY UNNEEDED STABBINGS.
YOU KNOW WHAT HE WANTS TO HEAR. SAY IT.
...PLEASE, CASEY.
YOU NEVER SAY PLEASE. HUH.
WELL I GUESS IF YOU CAN GROW A LITTLE...
...I CAN TRY TO AS WELL.

art by WILL ROBSON
colors by ANDREW DALHOUSE

THE ALLIANCE #3

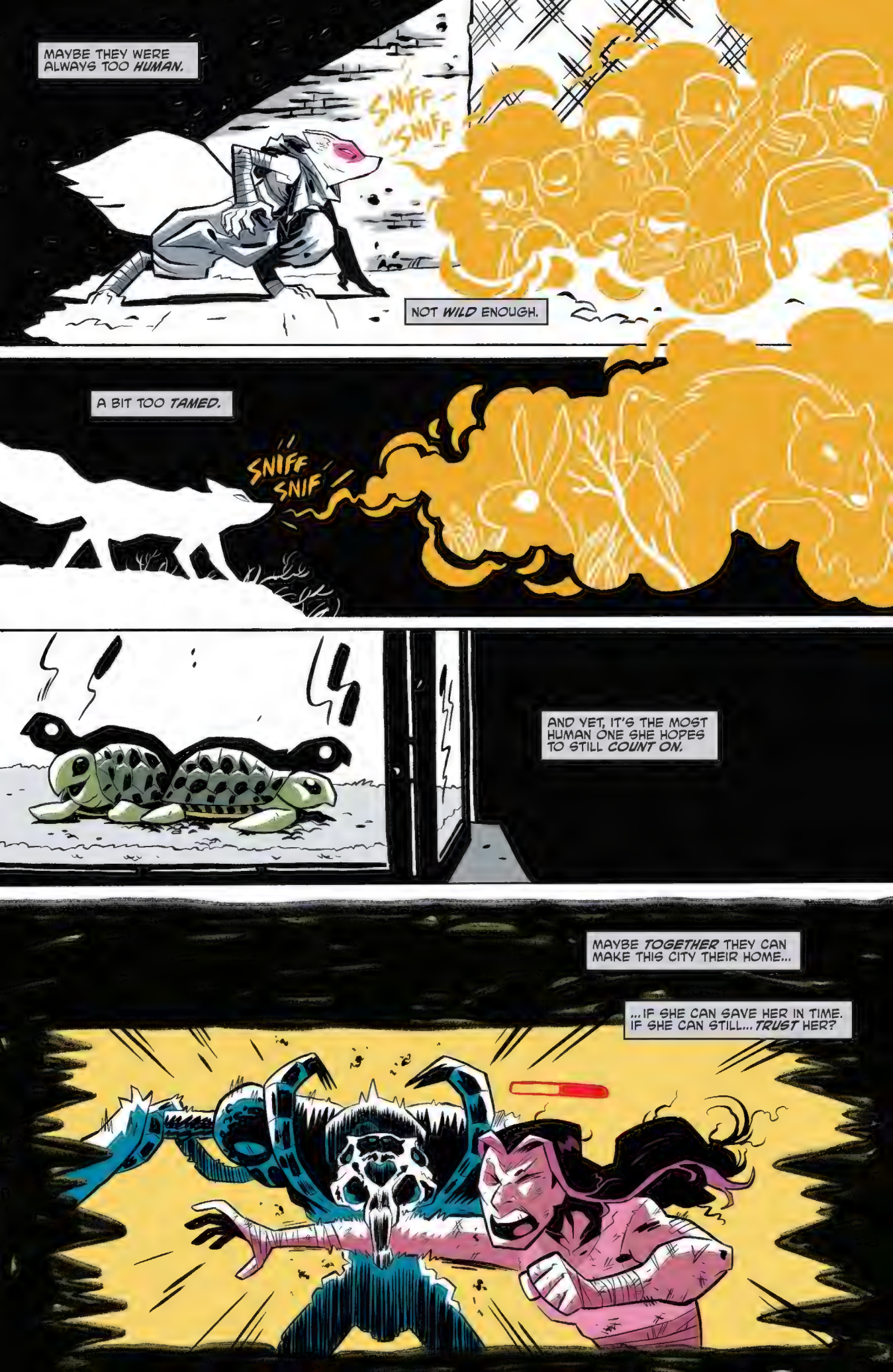
art by ROI MERCADO
colors by WILLIAM SORRES


HOME.
HOME.
HOME.

"I'M DISGUSTED YOU GUYS WOULD EVEN *CONSIDER* THE IDEA OF LETTING SHREDDER, OF ALL PEOPLE, INTO OUR LIVES AFTER EVERYTHING HE'S *DONE!*
"RAPH, HE HAD ME EXPERIMENTED ON!
"I'LL NEVER SEE MY FAMILY AGAIN BECAUSE OF HIM!
"IF YOU GUYS ARE GONNA GO THROUGH WITH THIS...
"...THEN I'M DONE WITH THE SPLINTER CLAN."

DONE WITH FAMILY.
ALL BUT ONE.
ANGEL NEEDS HELP. AND SHE'S FAMILY STILL.
WE'RE IN POSITION, MA'AM! READY TO ENGAGE THE MUTANT AT YOUR NOTICE! BUT, MA'AM, SCANNERS PICK UP NOT ONE BUT TWO LIFE-FORMS IN THERE!
DOESN'T MATTER, TAKE BOTH OUT!
ORDERS ARE CLEAR.
IF IT MOVES, IT GOES DOWN.

THE SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF THIS CITY. SHE GETS IT NOW.
VRRA HONK HONK!
THIS IS *THEIR* HOME.
YEAH
NO ORDER YET!
THEIR SPACES. THEIR CODES AND RULES. *THEIR CLAN.*
NONE OF IT MADE FOR *HER* NEEDS.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER REALLY GOT IT.
THEY NEVER REALLY GOT HER.

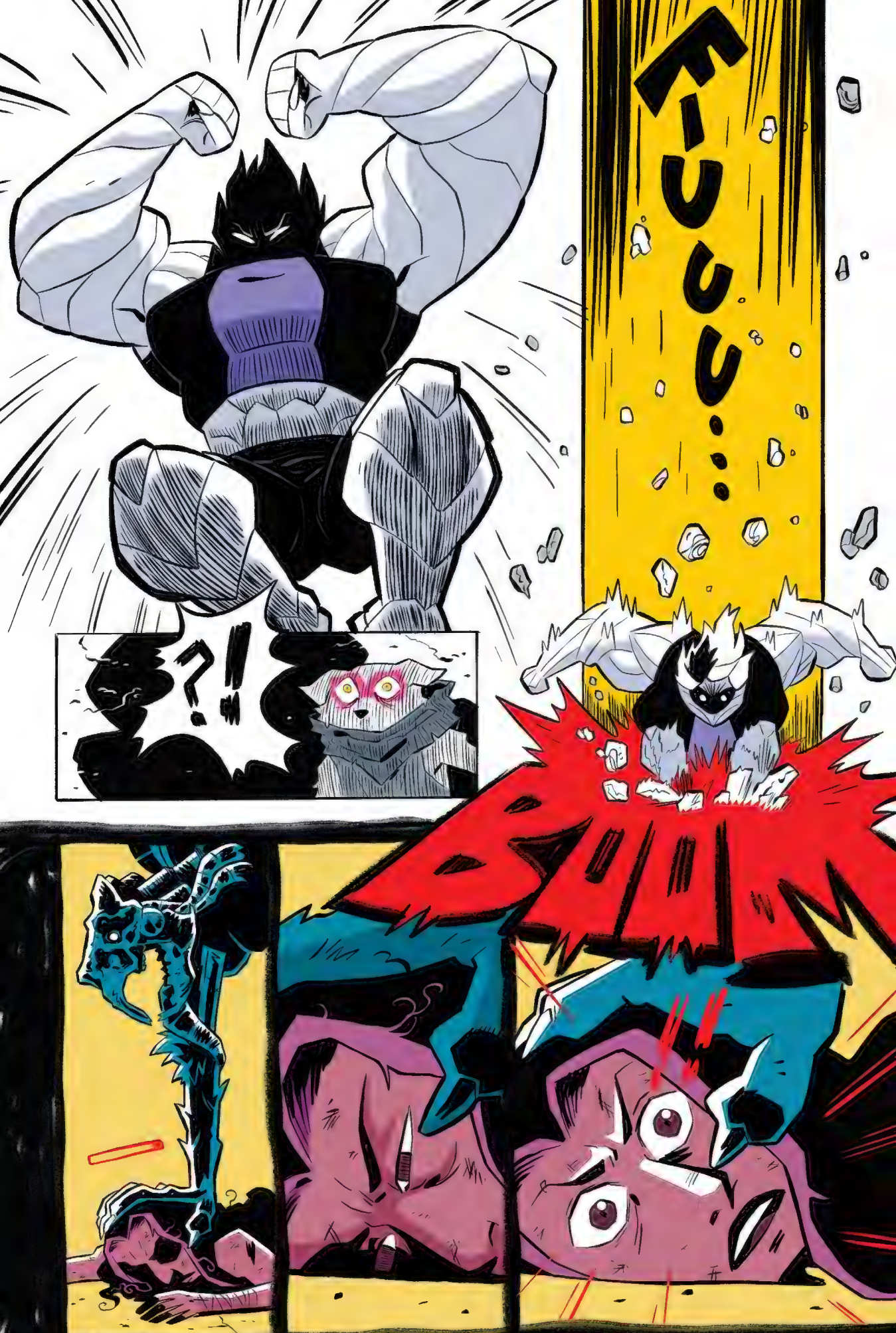

MAYBE THEY WERE ALWAYS TOO *HUMAN.*
SNIFF SNIFF
NOT *WILD* ENOUGH.
A BIT TOO *TAMED.*
SNIFF SNIF
AND YET, IT'S THE MOST HUMAN ONE SHE HOPES TO STILL *COUNT ON.*
MAYBE *TOGETHER* THEY CAN MAKE THIS CITY THEIR HOME...
...IF SHE CAN SAVE HER IN TIME. IF SHE CAN STILL... *TRUST* HER?

SO THE HUNT BEGINS.
USUALLY, YOU GO FOR THE CLOSEST IN THE PACK.
SWISH
HOWEVER...
...SOME MAKE THEMSELVES MORE OF AN EASY TARGET THAN OTHERS.
AAAAAAAAAA
SNIF
SNIF
SNIF
HOLD YOUR POSITI--
WHOA
WHOOP
WHOOP
WHOOP

SNIF
SNIF
SPLAF
CLIC
POOF
WHERE IS-- AHHH! SOMETHING TOUCHED MY LEG!
=COUGH COUGH= CALL RAVENWO-- =COUGH=
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
BOOM

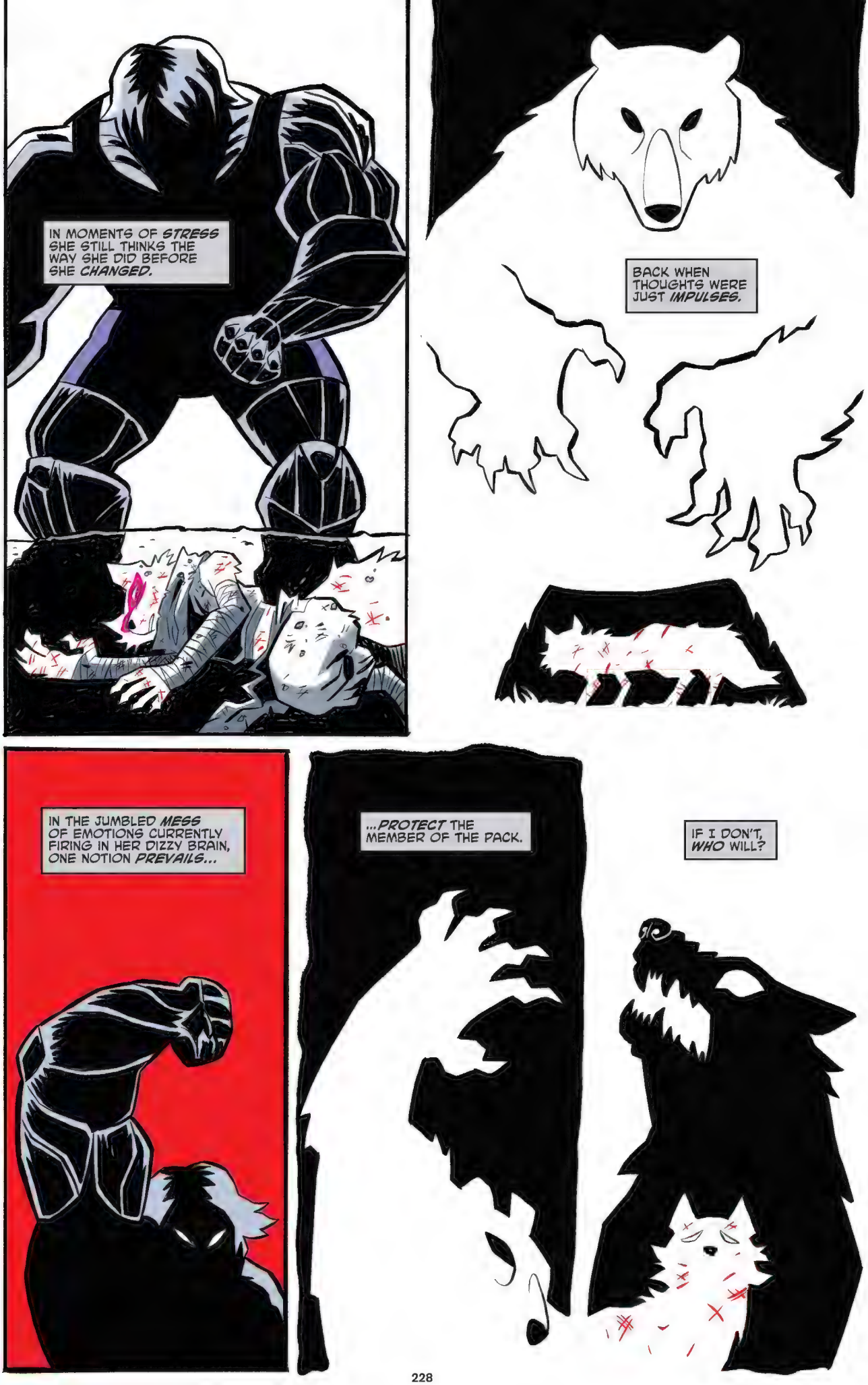
TSHING
AAAAAAH
SLASH
SPAK
RATATATA
TA
PEW
PEW
TA
PEW
KR-ACK
HK--
TA
TA
RA
TA
TA
TA
MA'AM! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! SOME DOG-LOOKING THING!
DO
VOOF
SBIM
SLASH
K--K
DID YOU NEUTRALIZE IT?!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
BZZZZZZ

SOLDIER! REPORT!
DID YOU GET THE DOG?
HHH...
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
FUN FACT: ALOPEX DOESN'T REALLY BARK ANYMORE. SHE JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY.
HEH
OKAY, CLEARLY WE'RE DEALING WITH INSOLENCE HERE.
AND I'VE NO PATIENCE FOR THAT TODAY.


FIUUU...
?!
BUM
!!

YOU COULD MAKE THIS SIMPLE, BUT I GUESS YOUR *NATURE* GOT THE BEST OF YOU.
SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO *TAME* YOU RIGHT BACK INTO *SUBMISSION.*
ZAP
CLANG
BOOM
PFOO
FF
FF

VOOSH
BOOM
BOOM BOOM BOOM


IN MOMENTS OF *STRESS* SHE STILL THINKS THE WAY SHE DID BEFORE SHE *CHANGED.*
BACK WHEN THOUGHTS WERE JUST *IMPULSES.*
IN THE JUMBLED *MESS* OF EMOTIONS CURRENTLY FIRING IN HER DIZZY BRAIN, ONE NOTION *PREVAILS...*
...*PROTECT* THE MEMBER OF THE PACK.
IF I DON'T, *WHO* WILL?

PAOW
HEY THERE, HOW YOU FEELING?
LIKE *NOTHING* IS GOING MY WAY LATELY.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
HOW?

MY ARM WON'T FORM BACK. I CAN BARELY MOVE!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
TODAY I DISCOVERED HOW USEFUL A GOOD OL' SHOCK IS.
I JUST ELECTROCUTED YOUR ARM. THE FEELING SHOULD COME BACK.
MAYBE.
WE WEREN'T EVEN HERE FOR YOU, BUT IF YOU SURRENDER NO--
REALLY? STILL?
LOOK AROUND YOU! AND YOU'RE SHAKING!

JUST THE EFFECT OF THE JOLT, I ASSURE YOU.
COOL. THERE'S *MORE* FOR YOU IF YOU'RE STILL HUNGRY.
NOW CALL YOUR BUDDIES, AND BY THE TIME THEY COME PICK YOU UP, WE'LL BE LONG GONE.
WE JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU SHELTER AND THE CARE YOU NEED.
GRRR
I'LL MAKE MY OWN HOME FROM NOW ON.

YOU CAN WALK?
THINK SO.
NEED A *DRINK*, THOUGH.
HA! I THINK MY DAD CAN FIX THAT UP FOR YOU AT THE BAR.
...
THANK YOU...
WHAT, FOR BACK THERE? PLEASE!

NO, I MEAN...
...I THINK I *NEEDED* THAT.
HOME.

IT WASN'T TOO LONG AGO THAT ANGEL BRIDGE AND ALOPEX FACED A SUPERHUMAN FORCE OF NATURE NAMED RAVENWOOD, AND A WHOLE MESS OF HIGHLY TRAINED E.P.F. AGENTS BESIDES.
EH... WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE WE WENT FROM THE POT INTO THE FIRE?
YOU MEAN THE *FRYING PAN,* ALOPEX.
SAME DIFFERENCE.
I THOUGHT THE FOOT WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING SAVE THE WORLD. THAT'S WHY THE TURTLES RAN OFF WITH SHREDDER, RIGHT?
THEY WERE--ARE. THINGS ARE BAD, AL... AND GETTING WORSE BY THE DAY. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP. YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU...
DON'T TRY TO PLAY ME, ANGEL. IT'D TAKE A MIRACLE FOR ME TO WORK WITH THE FOOT CLAN.
THEY--
WHAT ARE *THEY* DOING HERE?!
THEY *STINK* OF AGGRESSION. I'D SAY THEY WANT TO *FIGHT!*

IT WOULDN'T BE A FIGHT. WE'D KNOCK YOU INTO THE PAVEMENT.
YEAH. EXCEPT THE BOSS TOLD US NOT TO.
BUT MAYBE THAT CHANGES IF YOU STEP OUT OF LINE.
BEBOP. ROCKSTEADY. DON'T ANTAGONIZE THEM.
I DID NOT COME TO FIGHT, ALOPEX. I'VE COME TO ENLIST YOUR AID.
UH... WHAT?
I TOLD YOU THINGS WERE BAD.
THE WORLD CHANGES. I CANNOT AFFORD AN EGOTISTICAL GRUDGE. THE FOOT CLAN MUST CHANGE TO SURVIVE. I WILL DO WHAT I MUST TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES.
I WOULD RATHER BE ALLIES THAN ENEMIES.
I'LL BET YOU WOULD...BUT YOU MIGHT'VE HEARD, I DON'T *NEED* THE FOOT CLAN IN MY PACK.
HH. FOXES ARE *NOT* PACK ANIMALS.

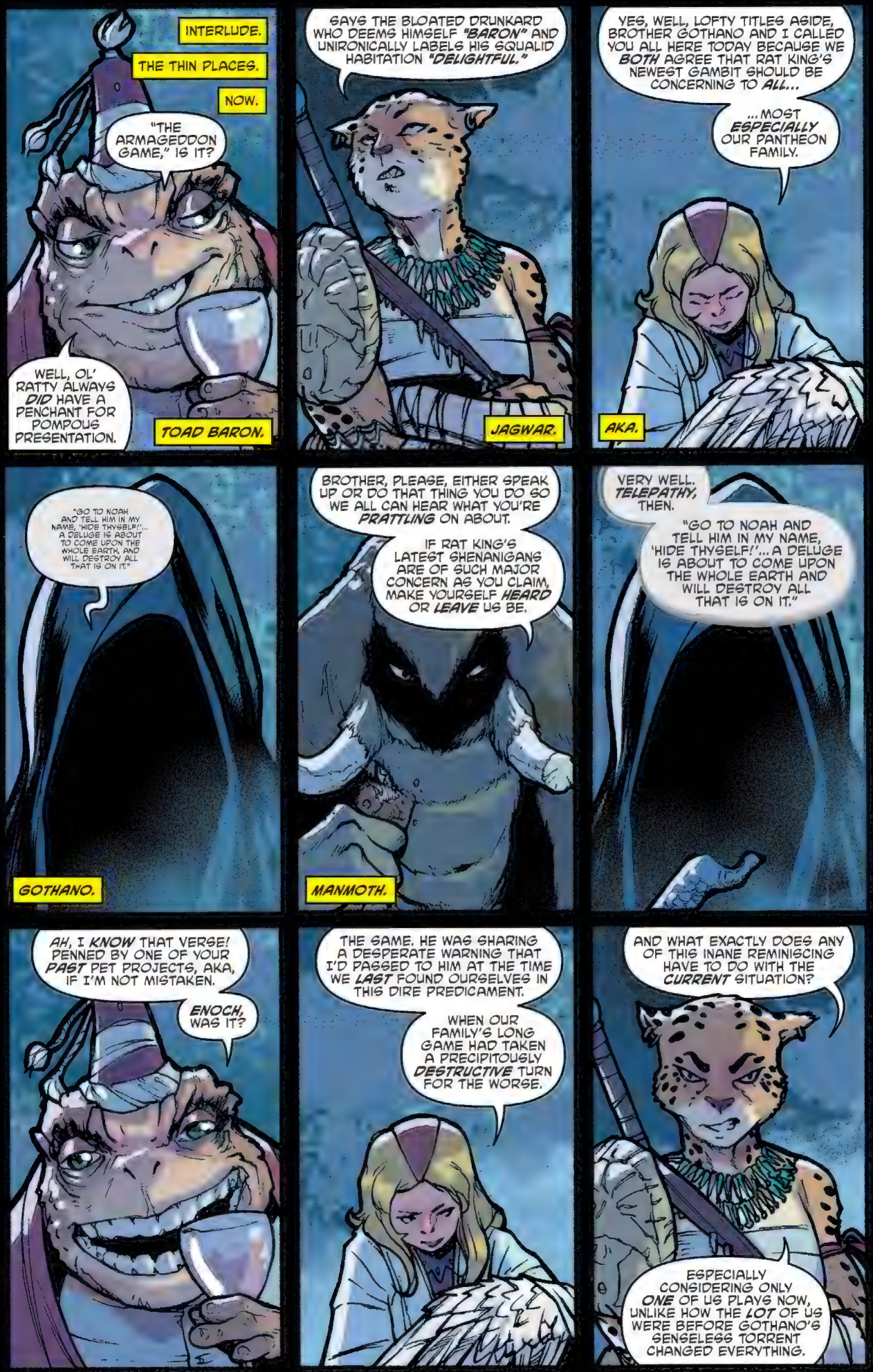
YOU'RE AS HIGH-AND- MIGHTY AS SHREDDER. MAYBE YOU WANT TO BE HIM? WELL--
--YOU'LL NEED A SCAR TO COMPLETE THE LOOK!
SLASHH
OH, HELL, ALOPEX...
SNEAK ATTACK? IT'S ON NOW.
YEAH! I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO A HAT FOR THIS! A FANCY ONE!

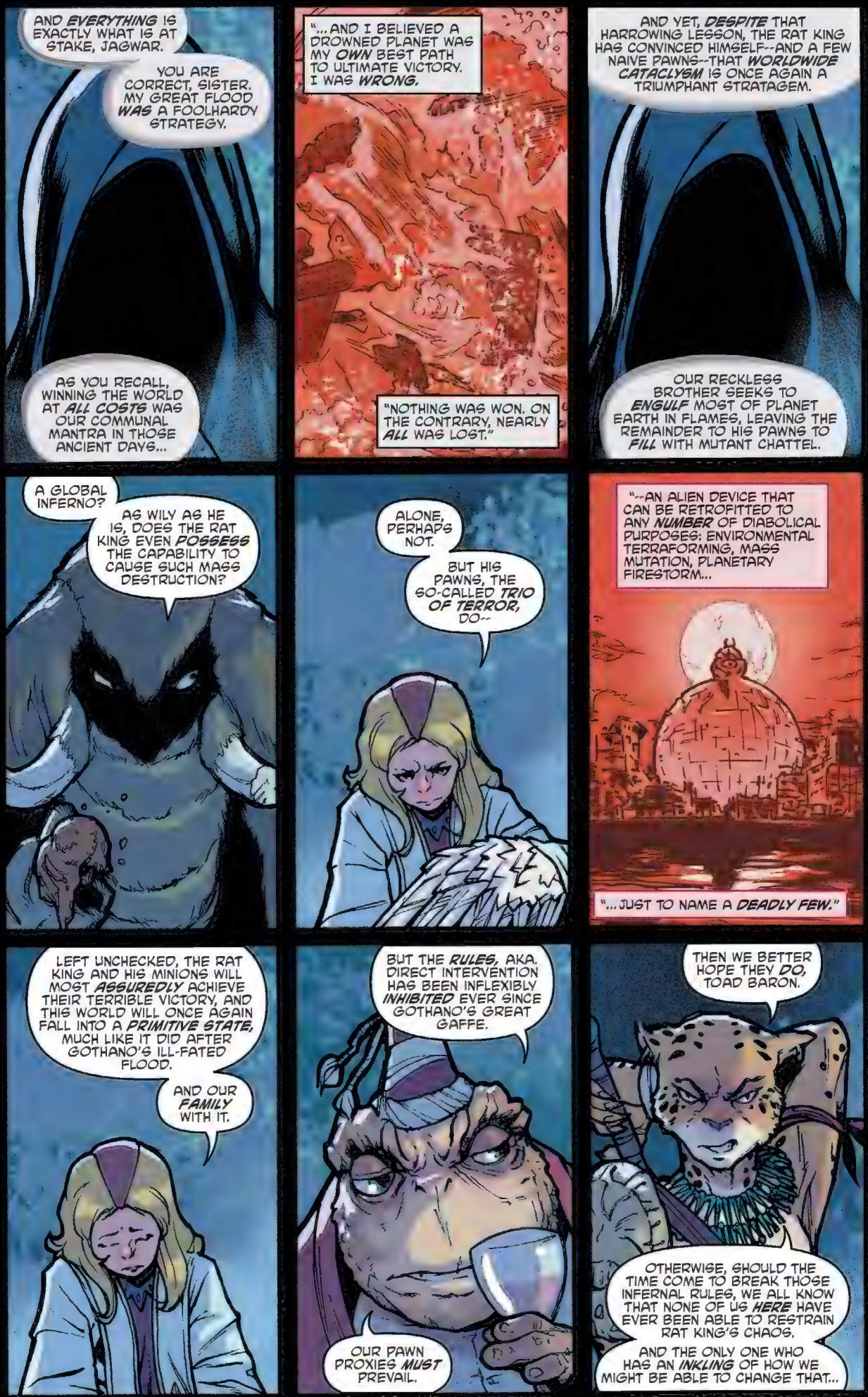
NO.
WHAT? BUT--
I SAID NO.
NEW THREATS ARISE, AND I HAVE BEEN CHARGED TO DEAL WITH THEM. MUCH IS AT STAKE, AND I NEED YOUR HELP. TRULY.
IF YOU WILL *FORGIVE* ME.
ULP. YOU'RE THE BOSS.
SHE--SHE'S NOT LYING. I DIDN'T BELIEVE THINGS WERE AS BAD AS YOU SAID. I WANT TO HELP, BUT...
I'LL BE RIGHT BESIDE YOU. FAMILY FIRST.
=SIGH= I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT.
WE'LL HELP YOU ON THIS, KARAI, BUT DON'T BE CONFUSED-- ANGEL IS FAMILY. YOU AREN'T.
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

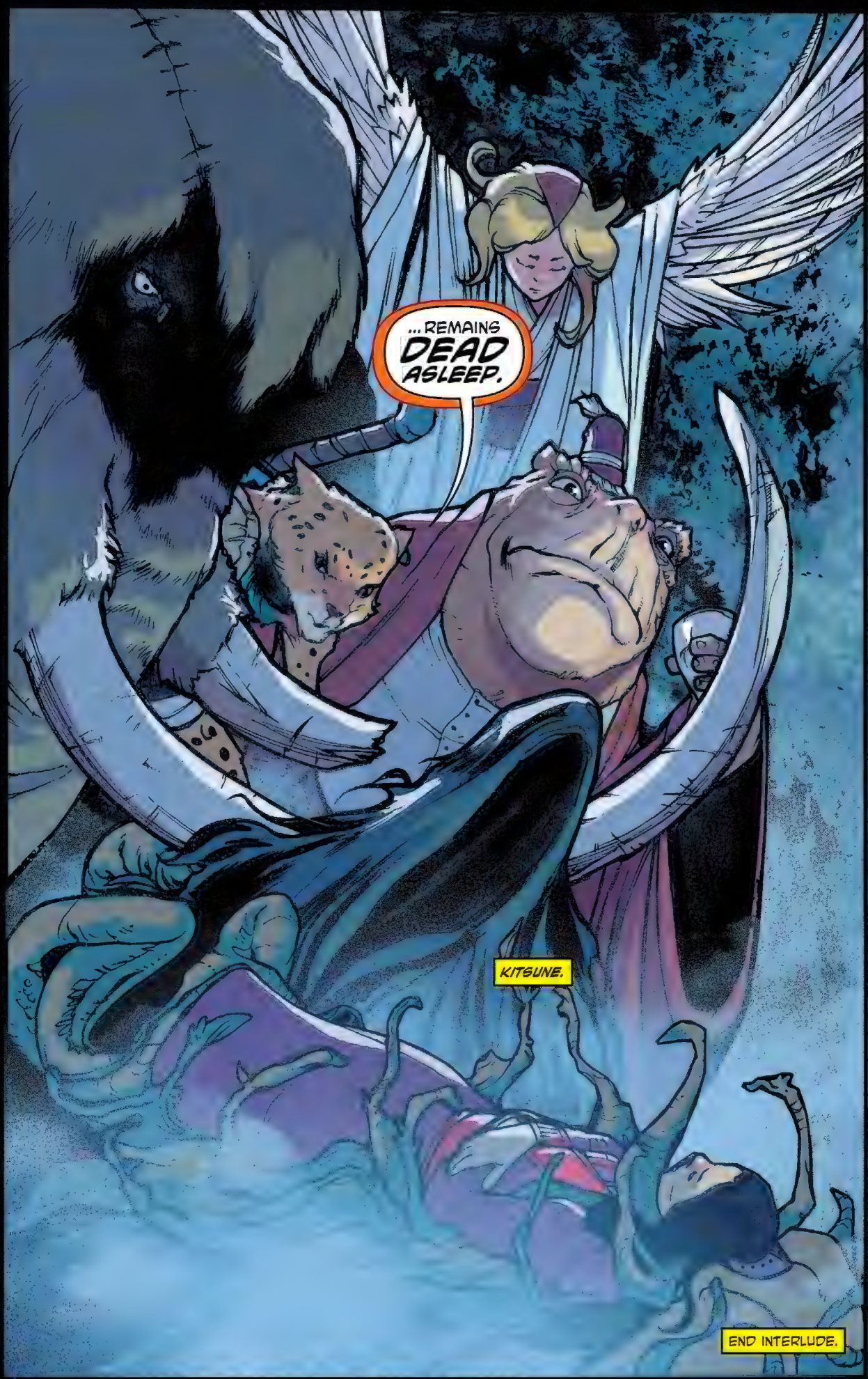
art by JUNI BA

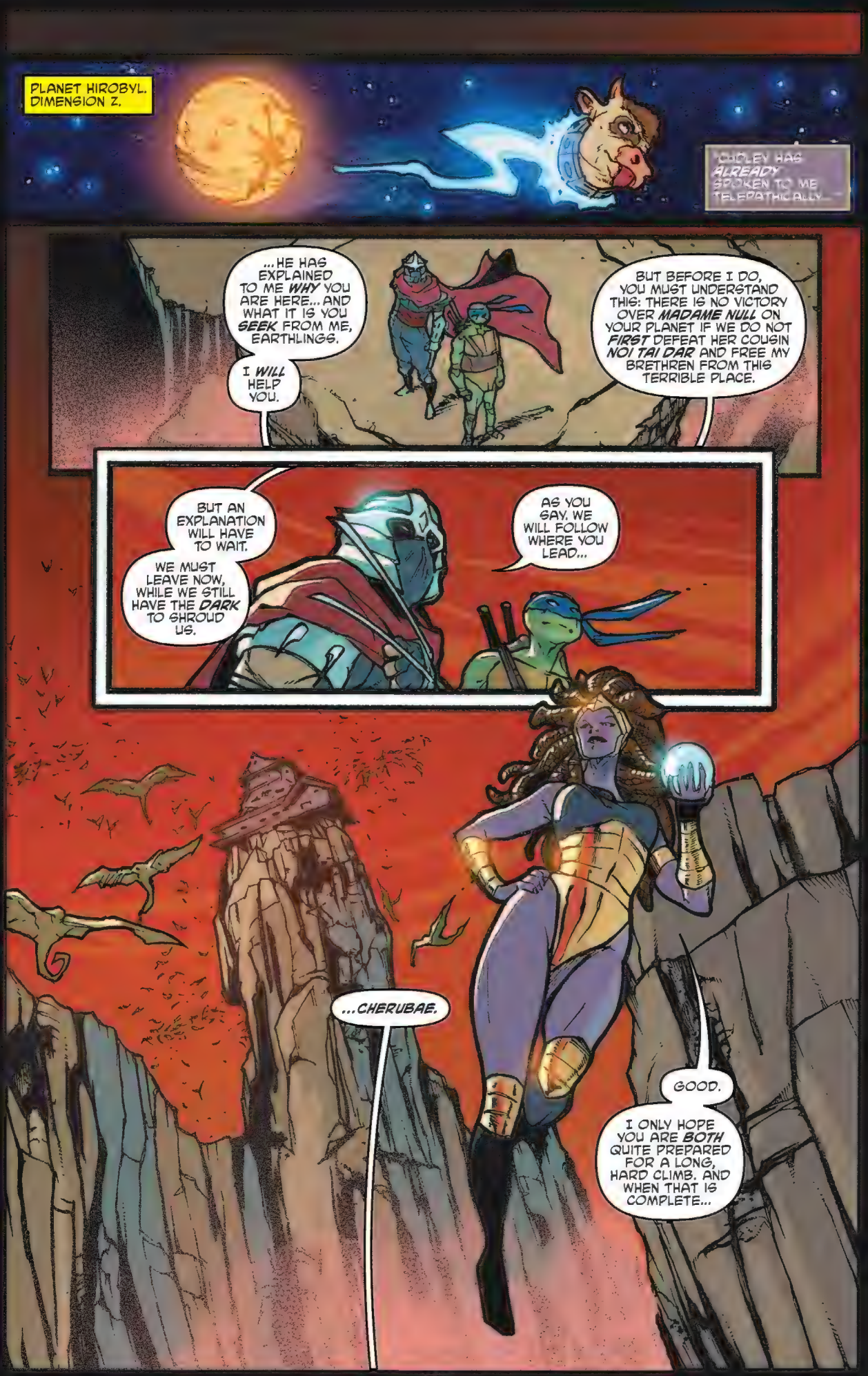
art by ALEX SANCHEZ
colors by MATT HERMS

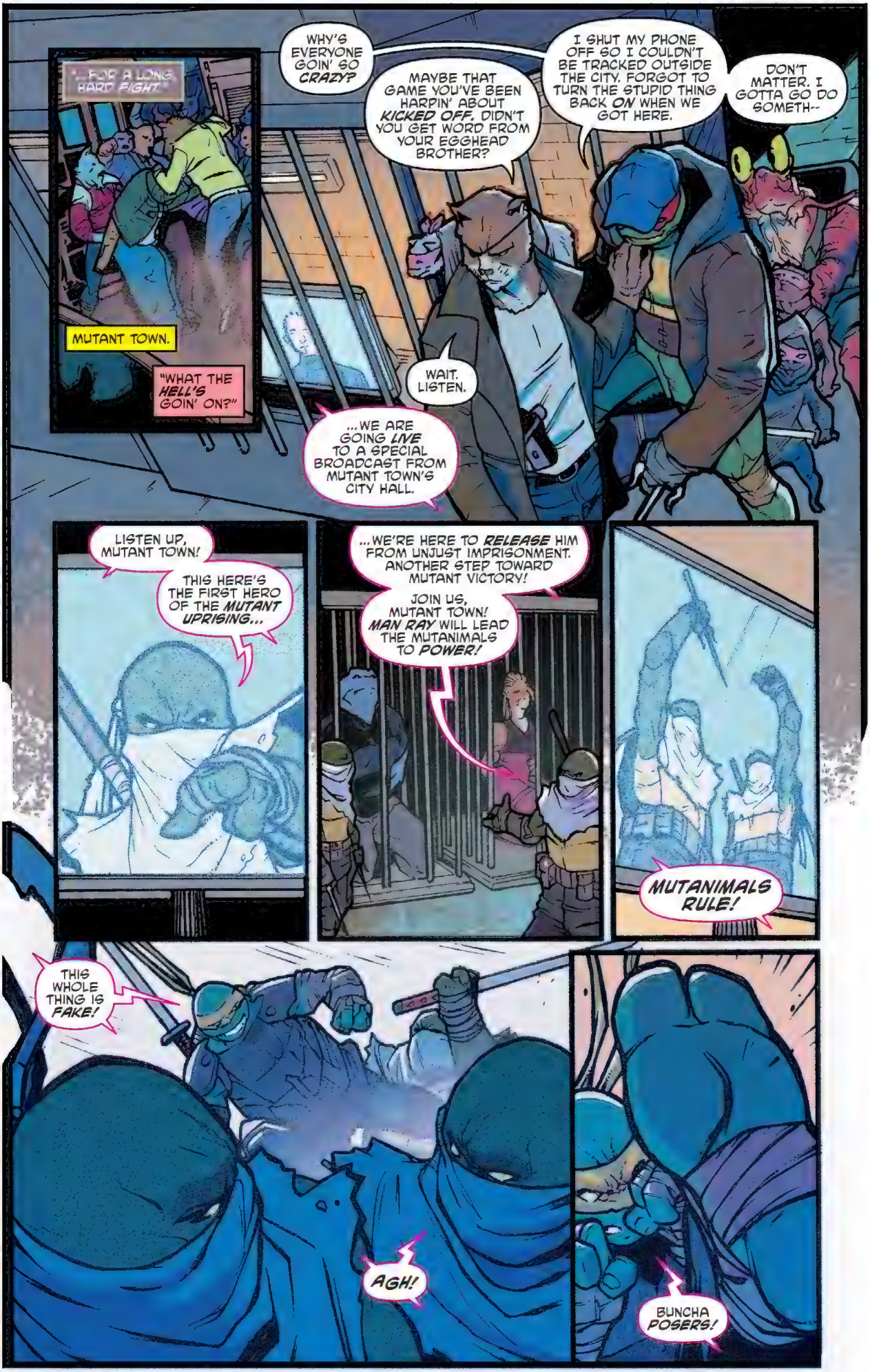
THE ARMAGEDDON GAME #4

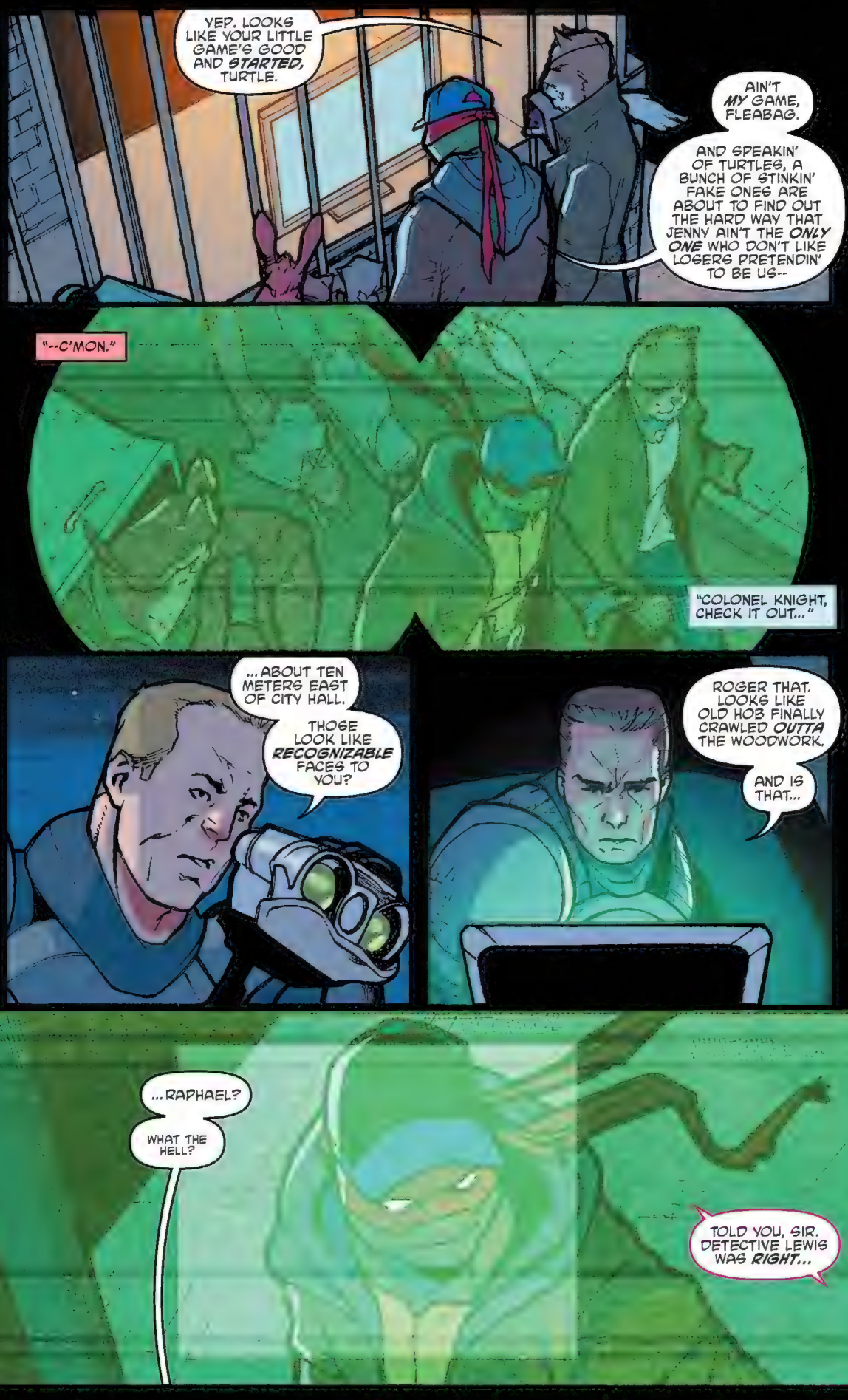

INTERLUDE.
THE THIN PLACES.
NOW.
"THE ARMAGEDDON GAME," IS IT?
WELL, OL' RATTY ALWAYS *DID* HAVE A PENCHANT FOR POMPOUS PRESENTATION.
TOAD BARON.
SAYS THE BLOATED DRUNKARD WHO DEEMS HIMSELF *"BARON"* AND UNIRONICALLY LABELS HIS SQUALID HABITATION *"DELIGHTFUL."*
JAGWAR.
YES, WELL, LOFTY TITLES ASIDE, BROTHER GOTHANO AND I CALLED YOU ALL HERE TODAY BECAUSE WE *BOTH* AGREE THAT RAT KING'S NEWEST GAMBIT SHOULD BE CONCERNING TO *ALL*...
...MOST *ESPECIALLY* OUR PANTHEON FAMILY.
AKA.
"GO TO NOAH AND TELL HIM IN MY NAME, 'HIDE THYSELF!'... A DELUGE IS ABOUT TO COME UPON THE WHOLE EARTH, AND WILL DESTROY ALL THAT IS ON IT."
GOTHANO.
BROTHER, PLEASE, EITHER SPEAK UP OR DO THAT THING YOU DO SO WE ALL CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE *PRATTLING* ON ABOUT.
IF RAT KING'S LATEST SHENANIGANS ARE OF SUCH MAJOR CONCERN AS YOU CLAIM, MAKE YOURSELF *HEARD* OR *LEAVE* US BE.
MANMOTH.
VERY WELL. *TELEPATHY*, THEN.
"GO TO NOAH AND TELL HIM IN MY NAME, 'HIDE THYSELF!'... A DELUGE IS ABOUT TO COME UPON THE WHOLE EARTH AND WILL DESTROY ALL THAT IS ON IT."
AH, I *KNOW* THAT VERSE! PENNED BY ONE OF YOUR *PAST* PET PROJECTS, AKA, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.
ENOCH, WAS IT?
THE SAME. HE WAS SHARING A DESPERATE WARNING THAT I'D PASSED TO HIM AT THE TIME WE *LAST* FOUND OURSELVES IN THIS DIRE PREDICAMENT.
WHEN OUR FAMILY'S LONG GAME HAD TAKEN A PRECIPITOUSLY *DESTRUCTIVE* TURN FOR THE WORSE.
AND WHAT EXACTLY DOES ANY OF THIS INANE REMINISCING HAVE TO DO WITH THE *CURRENT* SITUATION?
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING ONLY *ONE* OF US PLAYS NOW, UNLIKE HOW THE *LOT* OF US WERE BEFORE GOTHANO'S SENSELESS TORRENT CHANGED EVERYTHING.


AND EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY WHAT IS AT STAKE, JAGWAR.
YOU ARE CORRECT, SISTER. MY GREAT FLOOD WAS A FOOLHARDY STRATEGY.
AS YOU RECALL, WINNING THE WORLD AT ALL COSTS WAS OUR COMMUNAL MANTRA IN THOSE ANCIENT DAYS...
"...AND I BELIEVED A DROWNED PLANET WAS MY OWN BEST PATH TO ULTIMATE VICTORY. I WAS WRONG.
"NOTHING WAS WON. ON THE CONTRARY, NEARLY ALL WAS LOST."
AND YET, DESPITE THAT HARROWING LESSON, THE RAT KING HAS CONVINCED HIMSELF--AND A FEW NAIVE PAWNS--THAT WORLDWIDE CATACLYSM IS ONCE AGAIN A TRIUMPHANT STRATAGEM.
OUR RECKLESS BROTHER SEEKS TO ENGULF MOST OF PLANET EARTH IN FLAMES, LEAVING THE REMAINDER TO HIS PAWNS TO FILL WITH MUTANT CHATTEL.
A GLOBAL INFERNO?
AS WILY AS HE IS, DOES THE RAT KING EVEN POSSESS THE CAPABILITY TO CAUSE SUCH MASS DESTRUCTION?
ALONE, PERHAPS NOT.
BUT HIS PAWNS, THE SO-CALLED TRIO OF TERROR, DO--
"--AN ALIEN DEVICE THAT CAN BE RETROFITTED TO ANY NUMBER OF DIABOLICAL PURPOSES: ENVIRONMENTAL TERRAFORMING, MASS MUTATION, PLANETARY FIRESTORM...
"...JUST TO NAME A DEADLY FEW."
LEFT UNCHECKED, THE RAT KING AND HIS MINIONS WILL MOST ASSUREDLY ACHIEVE THEIR TERRIBLE VICTORY, AND THIS WORLD WILL ONCE AGAIN FALL INTO A PRIMITIVE STATE, MUCH LIKE IT DID AFTER GOTHANO'S ILL-FATED FLOOD.
AND OUR FAMILY WITH IT.
BUT THE RULES, AKA. DIRECT INTERVENTION HAS BEEN INFLEXIBLY INHIBITED EVER SINCE GOTHANO'S GREAT GAFFE.
OUR PAWN PROXIES MUST PREVAIL.
THEN WE BETTER HOPE THEY DO, TOAD BARON.
OTHERWISE, SHOULD THE TIME COME TO BREAK THOSE INFERNAL RULES, WE ALL KNOW THAT NONE OF US HERE HAVE EVER BEEN ABLE TO RESTRAIN RAT KING'S CHAOS.
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS AN INKLING OF HOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE THAT...


...REMAINS
DEAD
ASLEEP.
KITSUNE.
END INTERLUDE.


PLANET HIROBYL. DIMENSION Z.
CHOLEV HAS ALREADY SPOKEN TO ME TELEPATHICALLY...
...HE HAS EXPLAINED TO ME WHY YOU ARE HERE... AND WHAT IT IS YOU SEEK FROM ME, EARTHLINGS.
I WILL HELP YOU.
BUT BEFORE I DO, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THIS: THERE IS NO VICTORY OVER MADAME NULL ON YOUR PLANET IF WE DO NOT FIRST DEFEAT HER COUSIN NOI TAI DAR AND FREE MY BRETHREN FROM THIS TERRIBLE PLACE.
BUT AN EXPLANATION WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
WE MUST LEAVE NOW, WHILE WE STILL HAVE THE DARK TO SHROUD US.
AS YOU SAY. WE WILL FOLLOW WHERE YOU LEAD...
...CHERUBAE.
GOOD.
I ONLY HOPE YOU ARE BOTH QUITE PREPARED FOR A LONG, HARD CLIMB. AND WHEN THAT IS COMPLETE...


...FOR A LONG HARD FIGHT.
MUTANT TOWN.
"WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON?"
WHY'S EVERYONE GOIN' SO CRAZY?
MAYBE THAT GAME YOU'VE BEEN HARPIN' ABOUT KICKED OFF. DIDN'T YOU GET WORD FROM YOUR EGGHEAD BROTHER?
I SHUT MY PHONE OFF SO I COULDN'T BE TRACKED OUTSIDE THE CITY. FORGOT TO TURN THE STUPID THING BACK ON WHEN WE GOT HERE.
DON'T MATTER. I GOTTA GO DO SOMETH--
WAIT. LISTEN.
...WE ARE GOING LIVE TO A SPECIAL BROADCAST FROM MUTANT TOWN'S CITY HALL.
LISTEN UP, MUTANT TOWN!
THIS HERE'S THE FIRST HERO OF THE MUTANT UPRISING...
...WE'RE HERE TO RELEASE HIM FROM UNJUST IMPRISONMENT. ANOTHER STEP TOWARD MUTANT VICTORY!
JOIN US, MUTANT TOWN! MAN RAY WILL LEAD THE MUTANIMALS TO POWER!
MUTANIMALS RULE!
THIS WHOLE THING IS FAKE!
AGH!
BUNCHA POSERS!


YEP. LOOKS LIKE YOUR LITTLE GAME'S GOOD AND STARTED, TURTLE.
AIN'T MY GAME, FLEABAG.
AND SPEAKIN' OF TURTLES, A BUNCH OF STINKIN' FAKE ONES ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT THE HARD WAY THAT JENNY AIN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO DON'T LIKE LOSERS PRETENDIN' TO BE US--
"--C'MON."
"COLONEL KNIGHT, CHECK IT OUT..."
...ABOUT TEN METERS EAST OF CITY HALL.
THOSE LOOK LIKE RECOGNIZABLE FACES TO YOU?
ROGER THAT. LOOKS LIKE OLD HOB FINALLY CRAWLED OUTTA THE WOODWORK.
AND IS THAT...
...RAPHAEL?
WHAT THE HELL?
TOLD YOU, SIR. DETECTIVE LEWIS WAS RIGHT...

"...THERE'S SOMETHING ALL *WRONG* ABOUT THIS GIG."
HERMAN, STAY OUT HERE. WATCH OUR SIX. NO ONE GETS IN BUT *US*.
AYE, AYE, *SIR!*
WEASELS, WITH US...
"...AND STAY CLOSE."
HYAH!
KRAK
FALL BACK!
OH... CRAP.
YO...
...WHERE YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOIN'?
FIRST SHREDDER, NOW *HOB?!*
AL, WE--
ALOPEX?
"WELL, THIS IS CERTAINLY AN INTERESTING *TURN* OF EVENTS..."

...WOULDN'T YOU SAY, SALLY?
OR, SHOULD I SAY, MS. MAYOR?
JUST... SHUT UP, MAN RAY.
OKAY. I'LL KEEP QUIET. WON'T EVEN MENTION THAT I KNOW EXACTLY WHO THOSE FOUR FRAUDSTERS ARE...
...AND SO DO YOU.
WHAT?
"WHY SO SURPRISED, HUH?"
NOT EXPECTIN' TO RUN INTO OTHER NINJA TURTLES, CHUMPS?
THESE FOUR PUKES WISH THEY WERE NINJAS, RAPH.
AND AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU TAKE 'EM DOWN, DONNIE'S CALLING FOR SOME HELP AT THE LAIR, SO...
FORGET IT, JENNY. GO HELP DON...
"...WE GOT THESE WIMPY WANNABES"
WEASELS, LISTEN UP. ME AND UNCLE RAPHIE ARE GONNA TAKE CARE OF THESE BAD GUYS.
I NEED YOU THREE TO HANDLE A MORE IMPORTANT MISSION.
GO FIND MAN RAY AND SALLY AND HELP 'EM OUTTA THEIR CAGES. AND MAKE SURE YOU LET MAN RAY OUT FIRST, OKAY?
OKAY, DADA!
MANNY RAY FIRST!
ROGER! ROGER!
NOW...
...WHERE WERE WE?

WAIT A SEC. WHERE'S THEIR WEAPONS? THOUGHT YOU KARATE MOPES WAS ALWAYS CARRYIN'.
YEAH. WHAT KINDA NINJA GOES INTO A BATTLE EMPTY-HANDED?
OH... YEAH. THE PHONY KIND.
WHO'S EMPTY-HANDED?
HEH. NOW IT'S A PARTY.
GO...
...LET'S DANCE!
FIRST RULE OF NINJA-ING: KNOW WHEN TO SHOW OFF...
WHOOP
...AND WHEN TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
FWUP
EVERYONE, FALL BACK TO THE JAIL...
FWOOMP
...NOW!
STUPID NINJAS AND THEIR STUPID SMOKE.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

BLAM
BLAM
WHOA, WHOA! QUIT SHOOTIN', IDIOT!
THEY ALREADY LEFT THE ROOM!
SORRY. GUESS I JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY AT FINALLY HAVIN' THE CHANCE TO BLAST AWAY AT SOME MUTANT TURTLES.
VERY FUNNY...
"...THEY WENT THATAWAY."
CHECK IT OUT, HOB.
LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND THEIR LOST TOYS.
I'LL SHOW YOU TOYS!
KLANG
SECOND RULE OF...NNF... NINJA-ING: DON'T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN...
...CHEW!
CRAK
WHERE'S YOUR STUPID SMOKE NOW, PUNKS?!
BLAM
BLAM
CLIK

DAMN. AND JUST WHEN IT WAS GETTIN' FUN, TOO.
AH, WELL. TIME TO GO OLD-SCHOOL.
THAT LOUDMOUTH CAT'S OUTTA AMMO. WE CAN TAKE HIM TOGETHER.
WAITAMINUTE. WHERE'S--
HERE!
YAAGH!
SHNK
SHNK
SHWP
SHWP
OH... NO... NO, NO...
FASCIST IMPOSTERS!
DAMMIT! WE'RE COMPROMISED.

PLINK
ABORT MISSION!
WHAT THE...
WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
OH CRAP...
PLING
...GRENADE!
"HOLY!"
BADOOM
SIR?! ARE YOU SEEING WHAT I'M SEEING?
I'M SEEING IT, SERGEANT WINTER...
"...BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M BELIEVING IT."

OH MY GOD!
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
OKAY? OKAY?
I'M GOOD, SALLY.
PEACHY.
ASK ME AGAIN AFTER THE RINGIN' STOPS.
DID THEY GET AWAY?
YEAH. FAKE NINJAS FRAGGED THEMSELVES A NEW DOOR.
WHICH, CAN'T LIE, I KINDA RESPECT.
NOT JUST FAKE NINJAS, HOB.
MAYBE I'M GOIN' CRAZY, BUT I SWEAR THAT DONNIE POSER TURNED HUMAN AFTER RAY SHOT 'IM.
YOU'RE NOT CRAZY, RAPHAEL...
...HE WAS A HUMAN. THEY ALL ARE. HUMAN MERCANARIES ON MADAME NULL'S PAYROLL, TO BE EXACT.
SALLY AND I HAVE RUN INTO THEM BEFORE.*
YEAH.
THE GANG OF FOUR.
*See TMNT Universe #11--Canonical Charles
WHO?
"YOU ALREADY KNOW MY NAME--"

--I AM CALLED *CHERUBAE.*

WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, IS THAT I AM THE CHOSEN CARETAKER FOR THE *STAR OF OMPHALOS,* HEAVEN CENTER TO THE PRISTINE EDEN WORLDS, WHICH IN TURN ARE THE HOMES TO THE FOUR SOURCE ENTITIES...

...ALSO CALLED THE *FOUR WINDS.*

THEY ARE MY *MYSTICAL BRETHREN,* ALL OF WHOM WE SEEK TO *LIBERATE* TODAY.

*AZRAEL.

*EAGLE SPIRIT OF EAST EDEN.

*GLYPH.

*DRAGON SPIRIT OF NORTH EDEN.

*YAGUARO.

*JAGUAR SPIRIT OF WEST EDEN.

*SNAKE-EYES.

*SERPENT SPIRIT OF SOUTH EDEN.

AND THIS IS THE *TURNSTONE.*

A MYSTERIOUS ARTIFACT OF *UNKNOWN* ORIGIN, CAPABLE OF TURNING WRONG INTO RIGHT... DARK INTO LIGHT...

...BUT ONLY IF *ALL* FOUR WINDS ARE PEACEFULLY SITUATED IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL EDEN HOMES TO CREATE THE NECESSARY *BALANCE* TO EMPOWER IT.

*AND ONLY *I,* AS THE TURNSTONE'S CHOSEN *CONDUIT,* POSSESS THE ABILITY TO WIELD THE STONE ONCE THAT BALANCE IS ESTABLISHED.

*CERTAIN *DESTRUCTION* AWAITS ANY OTHERS WHO ATTEMPT SUCH A FEAT.

*IT IS A GREAT POWER MEANT *ONLY* TO BE USED RESPONSIBLY...

*SPARINGLY.

SOUNDS LIKE...*NNF*...THE *KUJI-KIRI.*

YET, DESPITE ITS INHERENT DANGERS, MADAME NULL *COVETS* THE TURNSTONE...

...FOOLISHLY BELIEVING SHE CAN *TWIST* IT TO HER WICKED MACHINATIONS.

*ALONGSIDE THE DEMON NO TAI DAR, HER EQUALLY MANIACAL COUSIN, SHE SEEKS TO *HARNESS* THE STONE'S POWER THROUGH COERCION, BRAINWASHING, AND TORTURE...

...AND I FEAR IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MY BRETHREN--OR EVEN I--*SUCCUMB* TO THE HORRIFYING AGONY THEY CONTINUE TO INFLICT UPON US.

WHICH IS WHY...

...WE ARE HERE.
TO FIGHT THE NEXT BATTLE TO STOP MADAME NULL AND NOI TAI DAR FROM SEEING THROUGH THEIR SCHEME FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL TERROR.
YES. MY APOLOGIES FOR THE DIFFICULT ASCENT. HAD I MY FULL POWERS, I COULD HAVE CARRIED YOU BOTH.
=PHEW=
FINALLY.
BUT WITH THE CURRENT COSMIC IMBALANCE...
...THE WEIGHT OF THE TURNSTONE HAS BECOME A NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE BURDEN TO BEAR ALONE.
INCREDIBLE.
YEAH.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE THAT CLIMB WITH YOUR NEW POWERS, EITHER, DID YOU?
NO. I DID NOT.
BUT THIS IS A WAR WE FIGHT TOGETHER, LEONARDO...
...IN ALL WAYS.
AND AS TO THIS NEXT BATTLE AGAINST MADAME NULL'S COUSIN THAT CHERUBAE SO RIGHTLY SPEAKS OF...
...I HAVE A PLAN.

"CHERUBAE, WHEN LAST YOU FACED NOI TAI DAR, YOU SHAMED HIM IN FRONT OF HIS COUSIN.*
"I BELIEVE HIS WOUNDED PRIDE WILL NOT ALLOW HIM TO AVOID CONFRONTING YOU DIRECTLY..."
*See TMNT: The Armageddon Game—Opening Moves #2 --Chess Master Charles
...WHICH IN TURN WILL DRAW THE FULL ATTENTION OF HIS SOLDIERS.
MY BROTHER RAPHAEL FOUGHT THE SAME VEGETABLE ZOMBIES AT NULL INDUSTRIES.
HE SAID THEY WERE TOUGH BUT DUMB.*
YES...
...MINDLESS, LIFELESS FODDER.
*See TMNT: Universe #20 and TMNT #94 --Brainsss Beacham
NOI TAI DAR!
I HAVE RETURNED, COWARD!
FACE ME...
...IF YOU DARE!
SO, THE WITCH IS BACK FOR MORE PUNISHMENT, IS SHE?
LET'S GIVE THE FOOL WENCH WHAT SHE WANTS, STARTING WITH...
A PROPER WELCOME.
"ONCE CHERUBAE HAS NOI TAI DAR'S ATTENTION DIVERTED..."

...LEONARDO AND I WILL SEEK A LOCATION TO COVERTLY INFILTRATE THE PRISON.
THERE IS A SERIES OF DRAINAGE TUNNELS THAT FLOW INTO THE LAVA MOAT...
"...THEY SHOULD BE JUST LARGE ENOUGH TO ALLOW YOU SILENT ACCESS."
DIFFERENT DIMENSION, SAME NASTY STENCH.
BETTER THAN A HOT MOLTEN BATH, AT LEAST.
INDEED.
"AFTER WE'VE MADE OUR ENTRY...
"...WE WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO THE CHAMBER WHERE CHERUBAE BELIEVES THE FOUR WINDS ARE BEING HELD PRISONER."
CHERUBAE WAS RIGHT. THIS IS THE PLACE.
YES. A PRIME SECURITY POSITION--CENTRALLY LOCATED WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE FACILITY, PROTECTED BY A REINFORCED GUARD CONTINGENT.
STEALTH IS NO LONGER AN OPTION, LEONARDO. THE TIME HAS COME...
...TO EMBRACE THE DARK.
YES...
...MASTER.
AND THEN...

"...WE STRIKE!"

CUT DOWN *EVERYTHING* IN YOUR PATH, LEONARDO! NO MERCY FOR THESE *UNDEAD ABOMINATIONS!*

I MUST GET TO THE *CONTROL CONSOLES!*

O! WHAT'S THIS?

A REGGGCUE IT SEEMSSS...

IT'S *CHERUBAE...*

"...SHE'S RETURNED!"

FOUL *WITCH!*

SHRAK

I'M GOING TO CHOP YOU...*ERF*...INTO TINY PURPLE *PIECES!*

ARE YOU?

YAAAGH!

FZAK

NOT AN EASY FEAT WITHOUT YOUR *AXE!*

FINE.

A GOOD *SCOURGING,* THEN.

"THAT'S *IT!* TEAR INTO THEM..."

...DESTROY THEM *ALL!*

YES, MASTER!

WHILE I *RELEASE* OUR FRIENDS...

SHNK

KSSSH

THAT WASSS IMPRESSSIVE.

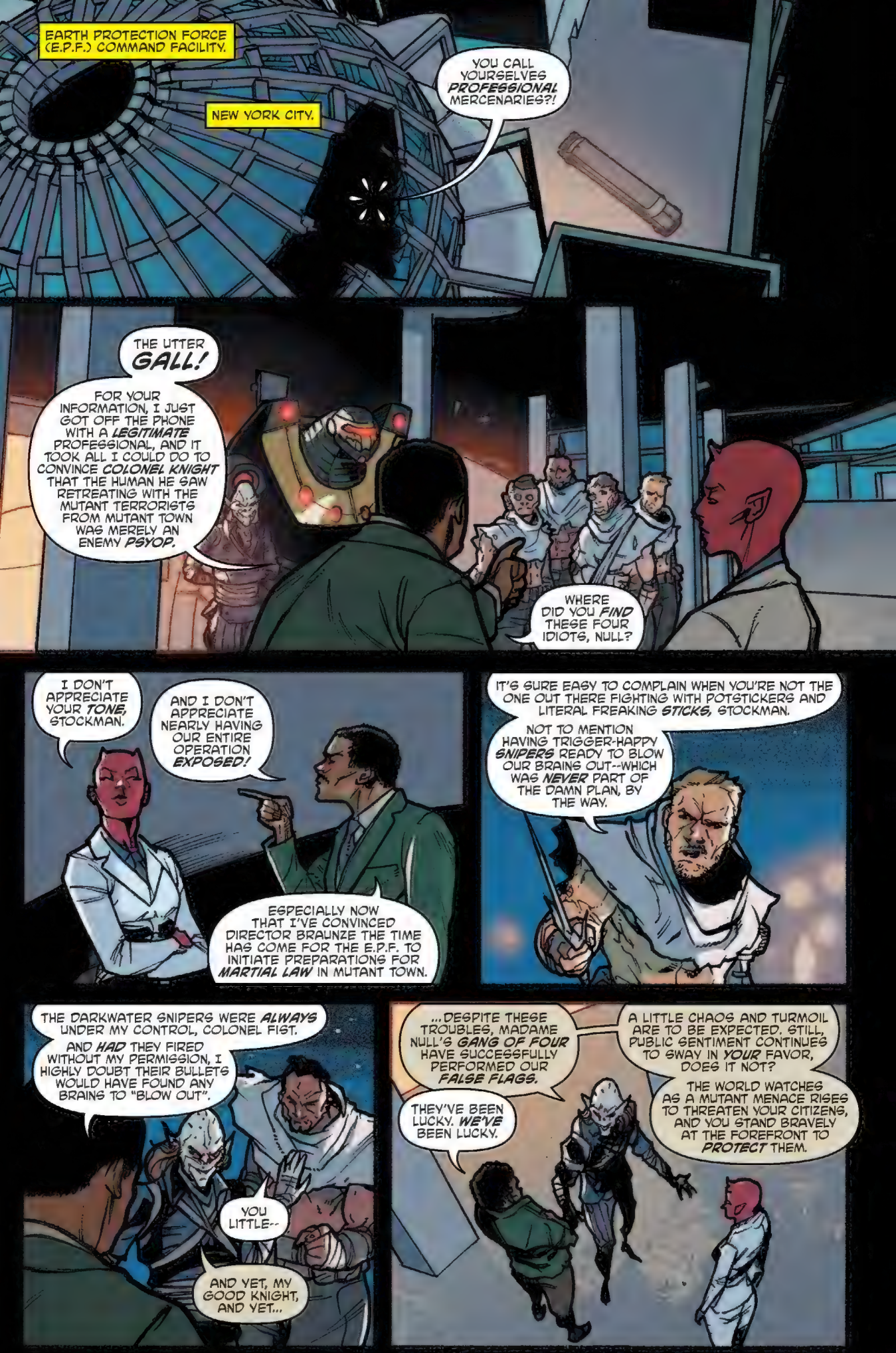
YES, WELL, I HAVE HAD *PRACTICE* FREEING PRISONERS OF LATE.*

NOW, *QUICKLY* AS YOU CAN...

*See *TMNT* #129--Shawshank Charles

"...FOLLOW US!"

STUPID GIRL!
GAH!
DIDN'T YOU LEARN THE HARD LESSON MY COUSIN AND I TAUGHT YOU BEFORE?
THAT YOU ARE SO WORTHLESSLY ALONE?
ALONE? IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK I AM?
TURN AROUND, PATHETIC HELLSPAWN. THE TIME HAS COME...
...TO MEET YOUR TRUE MASTER!
"DAMNED FOOLS!"


EARTH PROTECTION FORCE (E.P.F.) COMMAND FACILITY.
NEW YORK CITY.
YOU CALL YOURSELVES *PROFESSIONAL* MERCENARIES?!
THE UTTER *GALL!*
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH A *LEGITIMATE* PROFESSIONAL, AND IT TOOK ALL I COULD DO TO CONVINCE *COLONEL KNIGHT* THAT THE HUMAN HE SAW RETREATING WITH THE MUTANT TERRORISTS FROM MUTANT TOWN WAS MERELY AN ENEMY *PSYOP.*
WHERE DID YOU *FIND* THESE FOUR IDIOTS, NULL?
I DON'T APPRECIATE YOUR *TONE,* STOCKMAN.
AND I DON'T APPRECIATE NEARLY HAVING OUR ENTIRE OPERATION *EXPOSED!*
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I'VE CONVINCED DIRECTOR BRAUNZE THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE E.P.F. TO INITIATE PREPARATIONS FOR *MARTIAL LAW* IN MUTANT TOWN.
IT'S SURE EASY TO COMPLAIN WHEN YOU'RE NOT THE ONE OUT THERE FIGHTING WITH POTSTICKERS AND LITERAL FREAKING *STICKS,* STOCKMAN.
NOT TO MENTION HAVING TRIGGER-HAPPY *SNIPERS* READY TO BLOW OUR BRAINS OUT--WHICH WAS *NEVER* PART OF THE DAMN PLAN, BY THE WAY.
THE DARKWATER SNIPERS WERE *ALWAYS* UNDER MY CONTROL, COLONEL FIST.
AND *HAD* THEY FIRED WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, I HIGHLY DOUBT THEIR BULLETS WOULD HAVE FOUND ANY BRAINS TO "BLOW OUT".
YOU LITTLE--
AND YET, MY GOOD KNIGHT, AND YET...
...DESPITE THESE TROUBLES, MADAME NULL'S *GANG OF FOUR* HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED OUR *FALSE FLAGS.*
A LITTLE CHAOS AND TURMOIL ARE TO BE EXPECTED. STILL, PUBLIC SENTIMENT CONTINUES TO SWAY IN *YOUR* FAVOR, DOES IT NOT?
THEY'VE BEEN LUCKY. *WE'VE* BEEN LUCKY.
THE WORLD WATCHES AS A MUTANT MENACE RISES TO THREATEN YOUR CITIZENS, AND YOU STAND BRAVELY AT THE FOREFRONT TO *PROTECT* THEM.

AND WHEN THE MUTANT TERROR SEEPS BEYOND MUTANT TOWN'S WALLS--
--BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THIS GRAND CITY--THE NATION WILL TURN TO THAT SAME VALIANT MAYOR-KNIGHT TO DEFEND THEM AS WELL...
...WHATEVER IT TAKES.
NO...THINGS ARE GOING WONDERFULLY, IN MY HUMBLE OPINION.
AS TO STICKS AND POTSTICKERS, I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT ALLOW OUR SOLDIER MEN-CUM-MUTANT TURTLES TO EXPAND THEIR ARSENAL MOVING FORWARD.
UPPING THE THREAT, SO TO SPEAK.
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT.
AND ON THE SUBJECT OF WEAPONS, 'TIS MY MIGHTY ROOK'S MOVE NEXT, I DO BELIEVE.
IT'S ABOUT BLASTED TIME.
SAFE AND SPEEDY TRAVELS, GENERAL KRANG...
SSHHH
"...TO YOUR VAUNTED TECHNODROME."
SHOOM

art by GAVIN SMITH

art by FERO PE

ISSUE #136

YOU...ARE...
MINE!
WHAT'S IT DOING?!
RRGH, IT'S TOO STRONG!
UHLG
OUTTA THE WAY!

SLIK
HACK
HURK!
NO!
GET OFF HIM!
SPLAT
CRAP, IT'S STILL ALIVE!
NOT FOR LONG!
FOR THE HERD!
SLORK

:HACK: EVERYONE OKAY?
JENNY, YOU GOT HERE *JUST* IN TIME.
YEAH. THANKS, JENNY, THAT UTROM ALMOST HAD ME...
...I THINK IT WAS TRYING TO FORCE ME TO SWALLOW IT AND BECOME ITS *HOST,* THE WAY KRANG DID TO POOR LEATHERHEAD.
SO NASTY.
ANGEL SAID THERE WERE AT LEAST *FIVE* OF THESE GUYS.
WHICH REMINDS ME, I NEED TO CONTACT HER AND--
WAIT, JENNY, DID YOU RELOCK THE BUNKER HATCH WHEN YOU CAME IN?
UH-OH.

DAMMIT.
SHEENA, GET EVERYONE TO THE SEWER ACCESS NOW!
REGENTA SIGHTED.
AND DON'T LET ANYONE IN!
JENNY, WE CAN'T LET THESE GUYS REACH THE SEWER ACCESS DOOR, NO MATTER WHAT.
I KNOW.
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS MADE OF?!
SOME KIND OF UTROM SYNTHETIC TISSUE AND A METAL ENDOSKELETON.
SLASH
WATCH OUT, THEY SHOOT ENERGY BLASTS, TOO!

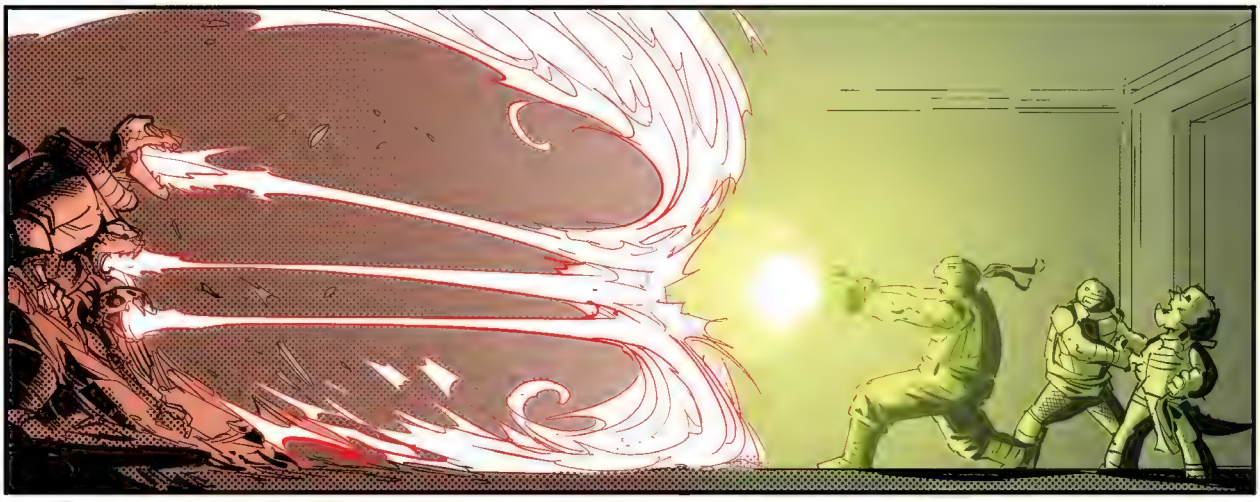
ZZAP
MY TEKKO-KAGI CAN BARELY SCRATCH THESE GUYS!
I KNOW I MUST BE KEPT SAFE, BUT I SHOULD BE OUT THERE, FACING DOWN MY ENEMIES WITH THE COLLECTIVE FURY OF THE HERD!
YEAH, YEAH. DONNIE SAID YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE, DIDN'T HE?
DONNIE, WE GOTTA DRIVE THEM OUT OF THE LAIR OR--
--OR AT LEAST GET EVERYONE ELSE OUT AND GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
THEY'LL STILL KEEP COMING AFTER US, JENNY!
KLANG
AGH!

WE HAVE TO STOP THEM HERE!
GLISH
ARGH!
YOU GOT A PLAN, THEN?
WHY WON'T YOU USE YOUR GAUNTLET THING? WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?
ZRAAK
IT DOESN'T WORK!
KSHRIK
COME ON!

HERE, SET UP A BARRICADE...
TRY TO SLOW THEM DOWN, THEN TAKE SERI AND THE OTHERS THROUGH THE WATERWAY.
YOU GUYS-- WAIT FIVE MINUTES...
...AND IF WE DON'T SHOW UP, THEN YOU ESCAPE THROUGH THE WATER!
NO.
SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOUR GAUNTLET DOESN'T WORK? ISN'T IT SOME KIND OF ANTIGRAVITY GLOVE?
IT... I DON'T KNOW. I INFUSED IT WITH MAGIC. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A WORKAROUND SO I COULD HARNESS KUJI-KIRI EVEN IF THERE WERE WITNESSES.
SERI! STOP!
I MUST CONFRONT MY ENEMIES.

SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT *THIS* IS WHAT I'M MEANT TO USE IT FOR.
TO PROTECT SERI, AND LITA, AND... *EVERYONE.*
BUT I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* THE MAGIC MIGHT DO WITH EVEN THE *UTROMS* WITNESSING IT.
IT COULD MAKE THINGS EVEN WORSE.
DUDE. SCREW THE WITNESS THING.
'CAUSE THEY'RE GONNA LET LOOSE MORE LASERS!
AND BUST RIGHT THROUGH ALL THIS.
SO I SAY...

...SAVE THE DAY NOW AND FIGURE THE REST OUT LATER.
IF ANYONE'S SMART ENOUGH TO FIGURE IT OUT, IT'S YOU.
OKAY.
GET BACK.
DONATELLO--
FSSSSH
--I WILL FIGHT--
RETSU. SPACE AND TIME...
ZAAA



WHAT...

OH NO.
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MOVE?
WHAT DID I DO?
STOP! STOP!

AAAH!

--AH!
THIS AGAIN.
AND EVERYONE IS FROZEN OR SOMETHING. WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THIS GUY MAKES THE BIG MONSTER THING SHOW UP. HMM.
OH CRAP.

BURNOW ISLAND.
"WHY DIDN'T WE KNOW...
"...THAT THESE TURTLES WOULD HAVE SOME KIND OF..."
...QUANTUM ENERGY ABILITIES?!
IT'S TIME TO ASSEMBLE AN ASSAULT FORCE AND PREP THE NEW HOSTS.
WE'LL GO TO NEW YORK CITY AND TERMINATE THE REGENTA OURSELVES.
COLONEL. SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SEE.

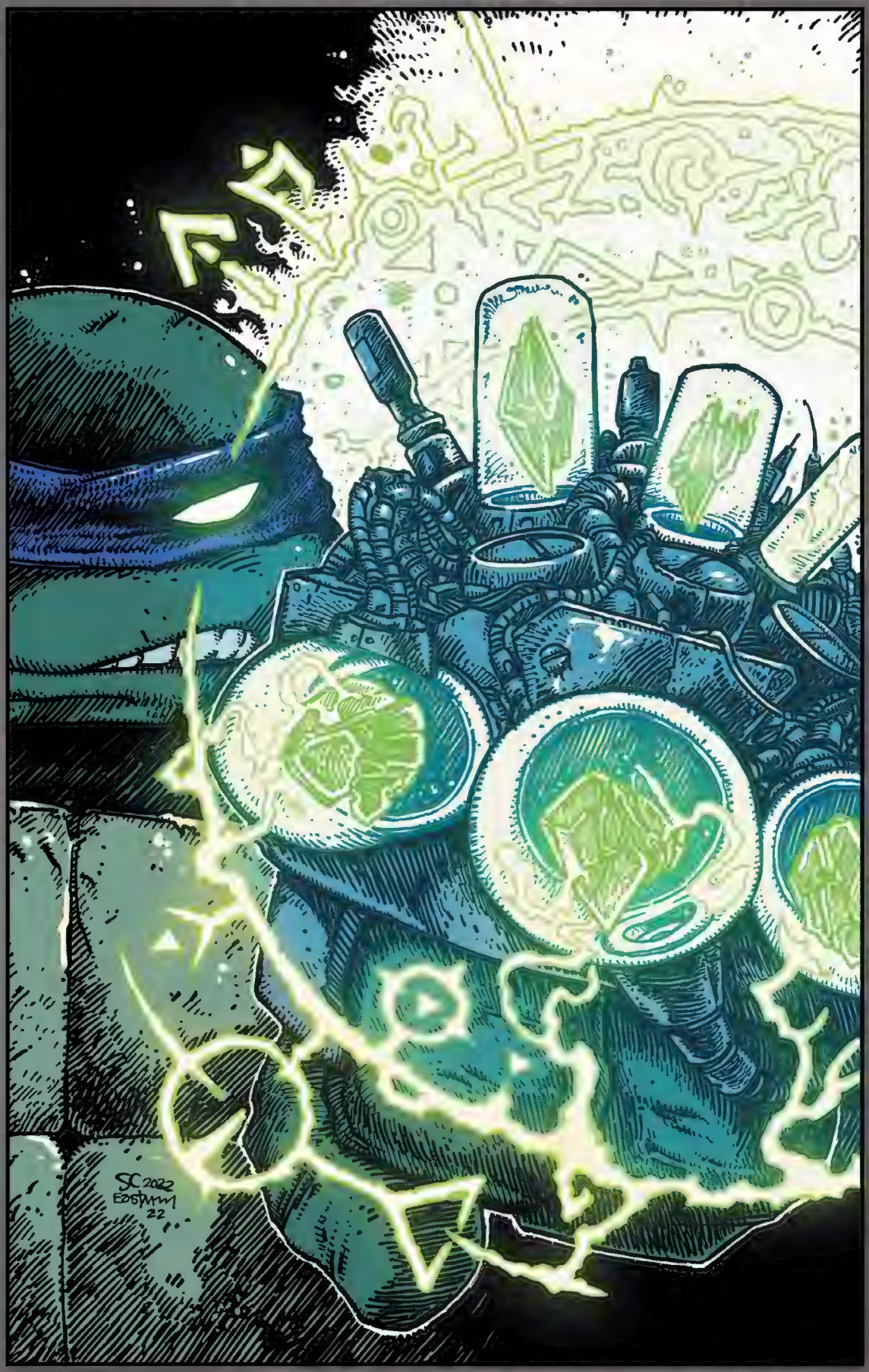
INCOMING BOGIE, SIR. APPROACHING AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED. ETA 26 MINUTES.
IDENTIFICATION?
NEGATIVE, SIR.
COULD IT BE THE REGENTA AND THOSE TURTLES LAUNCHING A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE?
I DON'T BELIEVE SO, SIR. IT'S ONE OBJECT.
WITH BOTH ORGANIC AND INORGANIC COMPONENTS.
IT'S HIM.
KLEVE, MONTUORO, WITH ME.
WE'LL MEET OUR VISITOR WITH FULL FORCE.

FWOOOSH
CH'RELL!
CH'RELL!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
RIGHT HERE, GENERAL KRANG.

WELCOME HOME, SIR. WE WERE BEGINNING TO LOSE HOPE WE'D SEE YOU AGAIN.
AFTER YOUR TRIAL, WE EXPECTED YOUR INEVITABLE RETURN, BUT*--
COMPLICATIONS WITH MY BIOLOGICAL HOST, NOTHING MORE. A PROBLEM NOW RESOLVED, AS YOU CAN SEE.
SPEAKING OF...
*See TMNT #75--J.M.
...WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
TRICERATON HOSTS?! DISGUSTING. LOOK AT YOURSELVES.
YOU SEEM JEALOUS THAT YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF IT.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, COLONEL!
NOW CALL OFF YOUR FORCES. THERE IS A MUCH BIGGER PLAN IN PLAY, AND I'M IN CHARGE HERE.

NOT ANYMORE, KRANG.
STAND DOWN, SOLDIERS! THAT'S AN ORDER!
THEY ONLY TAKE ORDERS FROM ME.
YOU ALWAYS DID PUT YOUR SELF-DESTRUCTIVE PRIDE BEFORE THE GREATER PICTURE, CH'RELL. JUST LIKE MY FATHER.
I, GENERAL KRANG, AM YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER!
SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT QUANIN, YOUR OWN FATHER...
...BUT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.

YOU HAVE *NEVER* BEEN A TRUE *LEADER* OF THE UTROM PEOPLE!
AND YOU NEVER *WILL* BE!



art by KEVIN EASTMAN & SOPHIE CAMPBELL

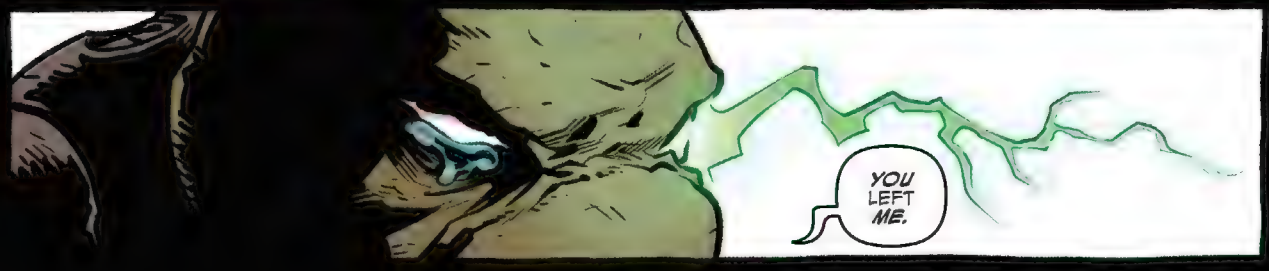
THE ALLIANCE #4

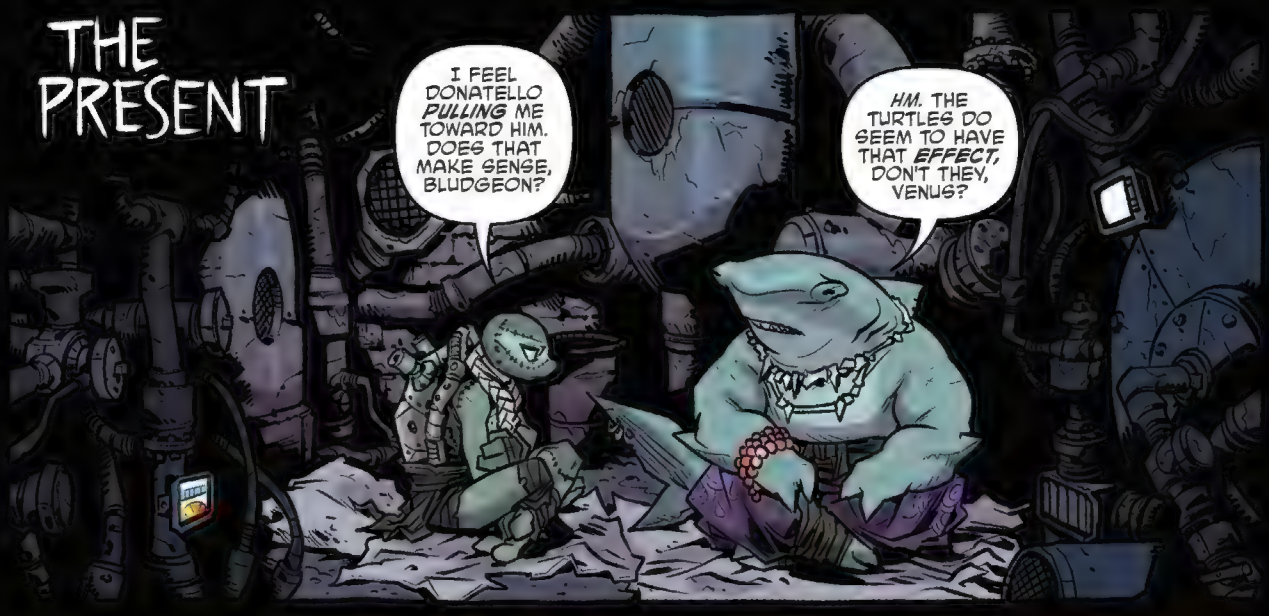
art by ROI MERCADO
colors by WILLIAM SORRES

THE FUTURE
WHERE--
WHEN AM I?!
HERE WE GO...
...ONE LAST TIME...

...BEFORE MY MEMORY IS WIPED OF ALL OF IT.
IT'S ME.
HEY, GUYS.
I KNOW THINGS WERE NEVER THE SAME AFTER THE ARMAGEDDON GAME.
WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE JUST TALKED TO ONE ANOTHER?
AND THEN ARMAGGON... NOBODY BELIEVED ME UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

...I TRIED WHILE YOU GUYS ALL DID... DID NOTHING.


YOU LEFT ME.


THE PRESENT
I FEEL DONATELLO PULLING ME TOWARD HIM. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE, BLUDGEON?
HM. THE TURTLES DO SEEM TO HAVE THAT EFFECT, DON'T THEY, VENUS?

THEY SEEM TO ALTER EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE THEY ENCOUNTER.
THEY'RE POWERFUL ENTITIES THAT DRAW PEOPLE INTO THEIR ORBIT, FOR GOOD OR ILL.

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF...
...WHEN I WAS AROUND DONATELLO, I FELT LIKE HIS PRESENCE, HIS IDENTITY, WAS CLOUDING MY OWN.

I LOSE MYSELF.
WHAT LITTLE THERE IS OF IT.
YOU'RE STILL FORMING YOUR NEW SENSE OF SELF.
YOU ARE FRAGILE. VULNERABLE TO THOSE WITH STRONG SPIRITS LIKE THE TURTLES.
I SUPPOSE SO.
YOU DON'T BELONG ANYWHERE YET, BUT YOU WILL.
I THINK WE BOTH FEEL A SIMILAR DISCONNECTION AND I'M NOT SURE YET HOW TO PROCEED...
BLUDGEON! I'VE HUNTED YOU DOWN!
WHY ARE YOU HIDING FROM ME AND WHO IS THIS INTRUDER?!
KOYA, THIS IS VENUS. LET ME--
BOILER ROOM
HUH?

WHAT IS THIS?
EXPLAIN... AH!
BLUDGEON!
IT'S DONATELLO. HE--
--DID SOMETHING!
I DID EVERY-THING.
SO... GOOD-BYE.

IT'S TIME.
TO FORGET.
OKAY. GET IT TOGETHER.
THIS IS JUST ONE *POSSIBLE* FUTURE.

WHERE COULD THAT PORTAL HAVE POSSIBLY TAKEN US?
MAYBE SOMEONE IN THAT TOWER CAN HELP US...
...FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET BACK HOME.
TEMPORAL MAGIC... TIME LORDS... GIVE ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW ALREADY!
WAIT... QNA? WHAT IS... QUANTANUCLEIC ACID?
THE TEMPORAL COMPONENT OF DNA...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE...
...SEEN THIS BEFORE.
A DIMENSIONAL MANIFOLD EXISTING OUTSIDE OF TIME, YET EXISTING INSIDE ALL OF...
...US.

"THE FLOW OF TIME RUSHING LIKE *WATER*..."
IT MUST TAKE *SO MUCH* ENERGY TO MOVE *AGAINST* THAT CURRENT.
HOW DOES ALL THIS NOT VIOLATE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS?
VENUS, THIS MUST BE OUR FUTURE.
MY FUTURE...

...WITHOUT THE FOOT CLAN.
DO YOU SEE ALL THIS CONNECTION WE'VE CREATED HERE, VENUS? THEIR AURAS ARE SO ALIVE.
...LOVELY.
IT DOES SEEM...
LOOK AT HER.
SHE SEEMS WHOLE.

I CAN'T-- HOW CAN I EVER UNDERSTAND ALL THIS?
THERE IS NO MAGIC. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN SCIENCE...
THE QNA'S GOT TO BE THE KEY, BUT HOW...
...IF I COULD JUST FIGURE THIS OUT, MAYBE I COULD KEEP THE ARMAGEDDON GAME FROM DESTROYING US...
...I'D BE ABLE TO SAVE EVERYONE...
I...
DON—
LIFE AT BEST IS BITTERSWEET
—DON

THAT'S DONATELLO. WHAT'S HE DOING?
THEY'RE NOT READY.
THEY HAVE TO BE. THEY HAVE NO CHOICE.
OF COURSE HE BARGES IN AND INTERRUPTS.
WHY CAN'T HE LEAVE ME ALONE?
VENUS...
...LOOK. WHAT COULD THAT BE?

WE CAN HELP--
NO. YOU CAN'T. YOU MUST LEAVE.

THE THING CALLED ARMAGGON WILL ALWAYS COME FOR US.
AND IF YOU DIE HERE, NOW, THEN WE--ALL OF THIS--WILL NOT EXIST.
YOU MUST LIVE.
WHAT...
VOLUME III
NO!
FIGHT IT!
QUICKLY, TAKE MY HAND.

THIS IS WHY WE'RE HERE.
MY SELF...
...IS YOUR SELF.
THIS HAS ALREADY HAPPENED TO US, WITH ME IN YOUR PLACE.
I REMEMBER COMING TO THIS PLACE WHEN I WAS YOU. I WAS WAITING FOR MYSELF.
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SIMULTANEOUSLY EXIST WITHIN US.

I REMEMBER...
...EVERYTHING!
I REMEMBER MY WHOLE LIFE!
EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DONE, THINGS I HAVEN'T LEARNED YET...
I'M...
VENUS!
BLUDGEON! OH NO--
I CAN'T REACH...

I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW.
THIS IS WHAT QNA IS.
MEMORIES, KNOWLEDGE, EMOTIONS, SELVES. EVERYTHING.
IT'S THE FORCE NEEDED TO PUSH US THROUGH TIME.
TIME IS INFINITE, SO QNA MUST CONTAIN...
INFINITE ENERGY
WHICH CAN BE TRANSFERRED...

OR EVEN TRANSFORMED.
NO WONDER OUR CONNECTION WAS IMMEDIATE.
IT WAS ALWAYS THERE.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE NOW, DONATELLO.
AND I KNOW WHO I AM, TOO.
AND WHO I WILL BE.

NO, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR PATHETIC--
...UH. WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WHAT'S THAT GLOWING PORTAL?
KOYA! I HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL YOU.
IT'S TIME TO BUILD OUR OWN NINJA CLAN.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY TO PERSUADE ME TO COME BACK WITH YOU AGAIN?
NO.
WE KNOW WHERE TO FIND EACH OTHER.

EASTFALL ARBORETUM.
ROOSEVELT ISLAND.
THIS PLACE IS AMAZING--
--I WISH YOU COULD SEE IT, BLUDGEON.
I CAN FEEL IT, VENUS, AND IT FEELS LIKE HOME.
I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAY DONATELLO FOR FINDING THIS PLACE FOR US.
YES--

--THE TURTLE HAS EXCELLENT TASTE.
:GASP:
NO!
VENUS, THAT'S KARAI! YOU COULD GET HURT!
KRMPH
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO BLUDGEON.
HE'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO ATTACK VISITORS BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO TO YA... GOOD THING SHE'S NOT HERE TO FIGHT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT, NOT WITH ALL THE DARKNESS IN HER SOUL. CAN'T YOU FEEL IT, BLUDGEON?

HE SURELY CAN. BUT AS KOYA SAID, I DID NOT COME TO FIGHT.
I CAME TO *PREPARE* FOR A FIGHT. AND I NEED YOU.

I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING, KARAI. MY GOAL IS PEACE. THE KIND OF PEACE THAT THIS GARDEN PROMISES. THAT'S ALL I SEEK.
AND WHAT I SEEK NOW IS TO WIN THE PANTHEON'S GAME.

TAKING OUT THE IMPOSTORS POSING AS THE SPLINTER CLAN IS OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, AND I'LL NEED YOU TO--
NO.
WHAT?

I SAID *NO*, KARAI. I JUST TOLD YOU THAT I WANT TO FIND PEACE. I'LL NEVER FIND IT IF I STAY WITH THE FOOT CLAN. YOURS IS A PATH SOAKED WITH *BLOOD*...
...AND I'VE HAD MORE THAN MY FILL.

YOU'RE ABANDONING ME? I NEED YOU!
I WOULD NEVER ABANDON YOU.
BUT I WILL TURN MY BACK ON THE WAR KARAI WISHES TO WAGE. MY FUTURE WILL BE ONE OF PEACE. I'M SURE OF THAT.
I PRAY YOU FIND PEACE AS WELL, KOYA. YOU DESERVE IT.
YOU WILL BE MISSED, BLUDGEON, BUT I RESPECT YOUR CHOICE.
BUT HE--
WE BOTH RESPECT YOUR CHOICE.
JUST REMEMBER THAT ONLY OUR PAST IS SET IN STONE.
WE CAN NEVER BE SURE OF THE FUTURE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE WISH TO BE.
FAREWELL.
I'M GLAD SHE'S GONE. THERE REALLY WAS DARKNESS IN HER. EVIL.
I BELIEVE YOU. AND DESPITE WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT THE FUTURE, I'M SURE THERE IS FAR MORE DARKNESS IN STORE FOR HER.
BUT FOR NOW... THAT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM.

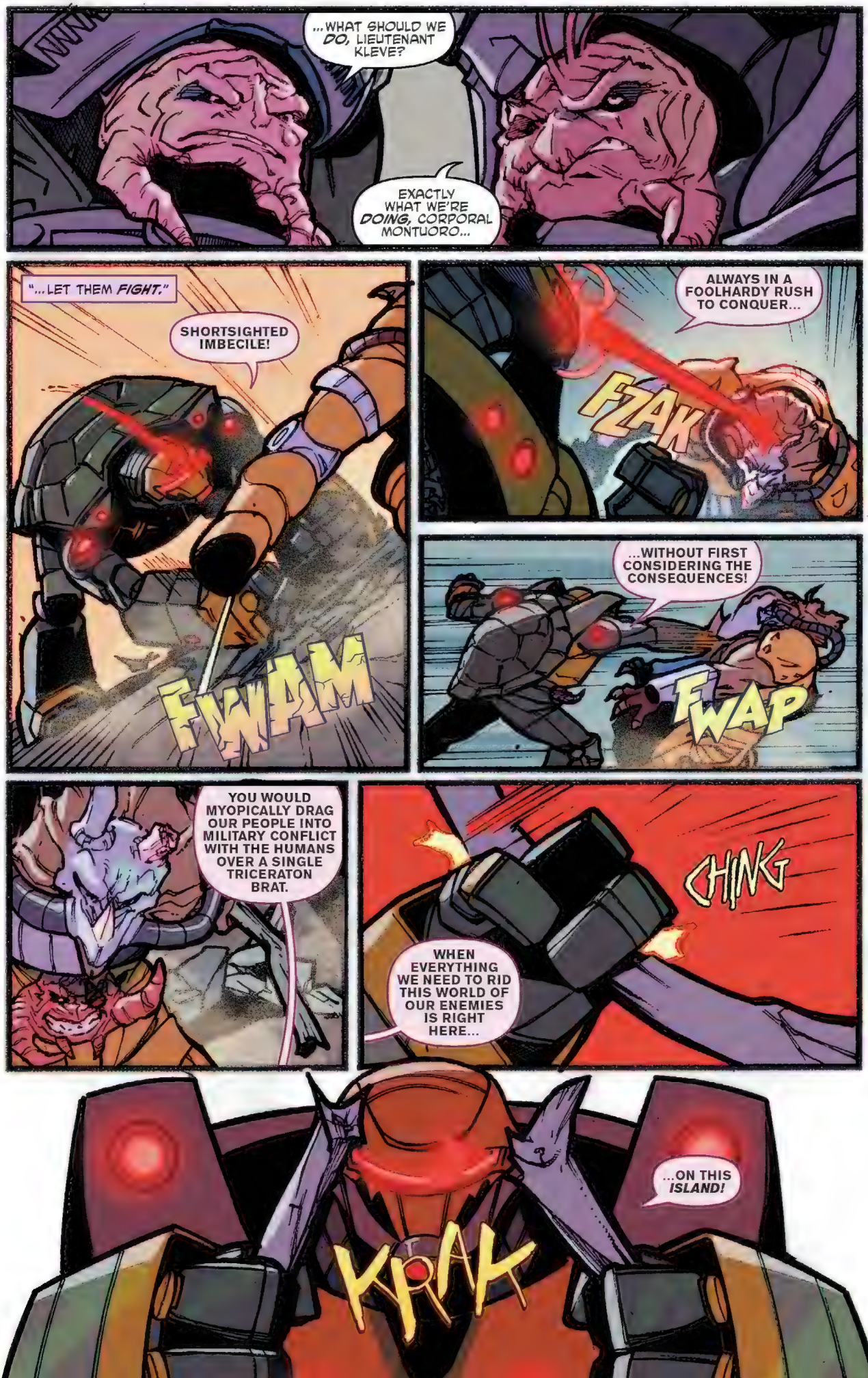
art by SOPHIE CAMPBELL

art by VINCENZO FEDERICI
colors by MATT HERMS

THE ARMAGEDDON GAME #5

BURNOW ISLAND.
"YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN A TRUE *LEADER* OF THE UTROM PEOPLE..."
... AND YOU NEVER *WILL* BE!
CEASE THIS IDIOCY *NOW,* COLONEL CH'RELL!
YOU RISK SABOTAGING OUR PEOPLE'S RISE TO ULTIMATE POWER ON THIS PLANET WITH THIS INSANITY!
YOUR FIGHT IS NOT WITH *ME!*

YOU'RE RIGHT, GENERAL KRANG!
MY FIGHT IS NOT WITH YOU!
KLANG
IT'S WITH THAT ACCURSED TRICERATON WHELP AND HER FILTHY MUTANT ALLIES!
WHAM
YOU'RE JUST AN ANNOYING INSECT STANDING IN MY WAY, WAITING TO BE...
...CRUSHED!
WHOM
SO...
FZAKK
...BE IT!
UNF!
"THIS IS CRAZY..."


...WHAT SHOULD WE DO, LIEUTENANT KLEVE?
EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING, CORPORAL MONTUORO...
"...LET THEM FIGHT."
SHORTSIGHTED IMBECILE!
FWAM
ALWAYS IN A FOOLHARDY RUSH TO CONQUER...
FZAK
...WITHOUT FIRST CONSIDERING THE CONSEQUENCES!
FWAP
YOU WOULD MYOPICALLY DRAG OUR PEOPLE INTO MILITARY CONFLICT WITH THE HUMANS OVER A SINGLE TRICERATON BRAT.
WHEN EVERYTHING WE NEED TO RID THIS WORLD OF OUR ENEMIES IS RIGHT HERE...
CHING
...ON THIS ISLAND!
KRAK

I WAS SENT HERE TODAY TO RESTORE THE *TECHNODROME* TO POWER.
TO *RETROFIT* IT FOR THE PURPOSES OF MUTATING AND ENSLAVING THE *ENTIRETY* OF THE HUMAN PESTILENCE THAT *PLAGUES* THIS MUDBALL OF A PLANET.
AND LIKE YOU, THOSE WHO *SENT* ME TO DO THIS ARE NAIVE...
...*FOOLS!*
SHLIP
DESPITE WHAT I LED MY SO-CALLED ALLIES IN NEW YORK TO BELIEVE, I DID *NOT* BRING OUR PEOPLE HERE TO SHARE THIS WORLD.
I BROUGHT THEM HERE TO CREATE A NEW HOME FOR US, LIKE THE ONE MY IMPETUOUS FATHER ALLOWED TO BE SO WASTEFULLY *DESTROYED* IN DIMENSION X.
NEW... YET *BETTER.*
THAT'S WHAT I CONSTRUCTED THE TECHNODROME FOR: TO *TERRAFORM* THIS PLANET. AND THAT'S WHAT I WILL HAVE...
...A *NEW UTROMINON.*
AND THERE IS NOTHING THE RAT KING, NOR BAXTER STOCKMAN, NOR THAT WITCH-DEVIL MADAME NULL, NOR THOSE PATHETIC MUTANTS CAN DO TO STOP ME FROM HAVING IT.
NOR YOU, MUTINOUS SCUM.
GOODBYE, COLONEL CH'RELL.
FZAK

HRNNGK...
WHA--
YOU TOO...
...KLEVE?
I'M SORRY, GENERAL. I COULDN'T ALLOW YOU TO KILL THE COLONEL.
WE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR YOU TO COME BACK TO US, TO FINISH WHAT WE STARTED WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED ON THIS ISLAND.
BUT WHEN YOU NEVER RETURNED, COLONEL CH'RELL SHOWED US A NEW WAY.
NEW... YET BETTER.
A WARRIOR'S WAY.
FOOLS... ALL OF YOU.
CH'RELL'S WAY LEADS ONLY TO
DOOOOOM.

I KNEW I COULD RELY ON YOUR LOYALTY, KLEVE.
GOOD WORK, SOLDIER.
AND GOOD RIDDANCE.
PTOO
SPAK
SO... WHERE WERE WE?
AH, YES. DESTROYING THE REGENTA COW AND HER FRIENDS. WELL, I SAY WE GET ON WITH OUR INVASION.
WHAT SAY YOU...
"... MY MIGHTY UTROM SOLDIERS?"
AYE, AYE, SIR!
GOOD.
NOW... GET ME OFF THIS DAMNED WALL.
"YOU THINK YOU HAVE ME BEATEN, DO YOU?"

PLANET HIROBYL. DIMENSION Z.
I THINK YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MINDS IF I SQUEEZE THIS WITCH'S *THROAT* ANY TIGHTER.
DON'T... LISTEN... TO HIM...
WHO'S *LISTENING?*
FWP
FWP
SHP SHP
GYAH!
BRETHREN! YOU ARE *FREE!*
YESSSS... THANKSSS TO YOUR NEW *FRIENDSSS.*
SAVE YOUR THANKS FOR NOW...
...WE'VE STILL GOTTA GET *ACROSS* THIS BRIDGE.
LEONARDO IS CORRECT. NOI TAI DAR MUST BE *REMOVED* FROM OUR PATH.
CHERUBAE, REMAIN *BEHIND* TO ESCORT THE FOUR WINDS.
AND YOU?
LEONARDO AND I WILL...

...CLEAR THE WAY!
"TALK ABOUT TAKING THINGS TO THE *NEXT LEVEL*..."

"...LOOKS LIKE THE E.P.F.'S GOING TO *WAR.*"
E.P.F.
MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT THIS THING'S GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE *REAL* FAST, COLONEL.
I GET THE CONCERN, BUT *MARTIAL LAW?*
YEAH, IT'S A MAJOR ESCALATION, ALL RIGHT. BUT ONLY IN *MUTANT TOWN.*
GUESS MAYOR STOCKMAN THINKS IT'S THE BEST WAY TO *QUELL* THE RIOTS AND *SMOKE OUT* THOSE TURTLE TERRORISTS.
YOU *AGREE* WITH HIM, SIR?
WE'RE NOT GETTING PAID A CRAPLOAD OF MONEY TO AGREE *OR* DISAGREE WITH THE MAYOR, SERGEANT WINTER...
"...WE'RE GETTING PAID A CRAPLOAD OF MONEY TO *PROTECT* HIM."
MY TROOPS ARE MOUNTED UP AND READY TO ROLL, MAYOR.
JUST WAITING ON YOUR *GREEN LIGHT.*
CONSIDER IT *LIT,* DIRECTOR BRAUNZE.
I KNOW YOU'VE PREFERRED TO MAINTAIN A NONAGGRESSIVE POSTURE SINCE YOU TOOK COMMAND OF THE E.P.F., BUT I THINK YOU'LL FIND YOUR PREDECESSOR'S FAVORED STRATEGY AGAINST THE MUTANT MENACE *REMAINS* APROPOS...
...THE *BEST DEFENSE* IS A *GOOD OFFENSE.*
YES, SIR!
ER, UH... VERY GOOD. CARRY ON.
IT APPEARS WE'RE FINE LEAVING THE *FIELDWORK* IN THE CAPABLE HANDS OF THE DIRECTOR, COLONEL KNIGHT...

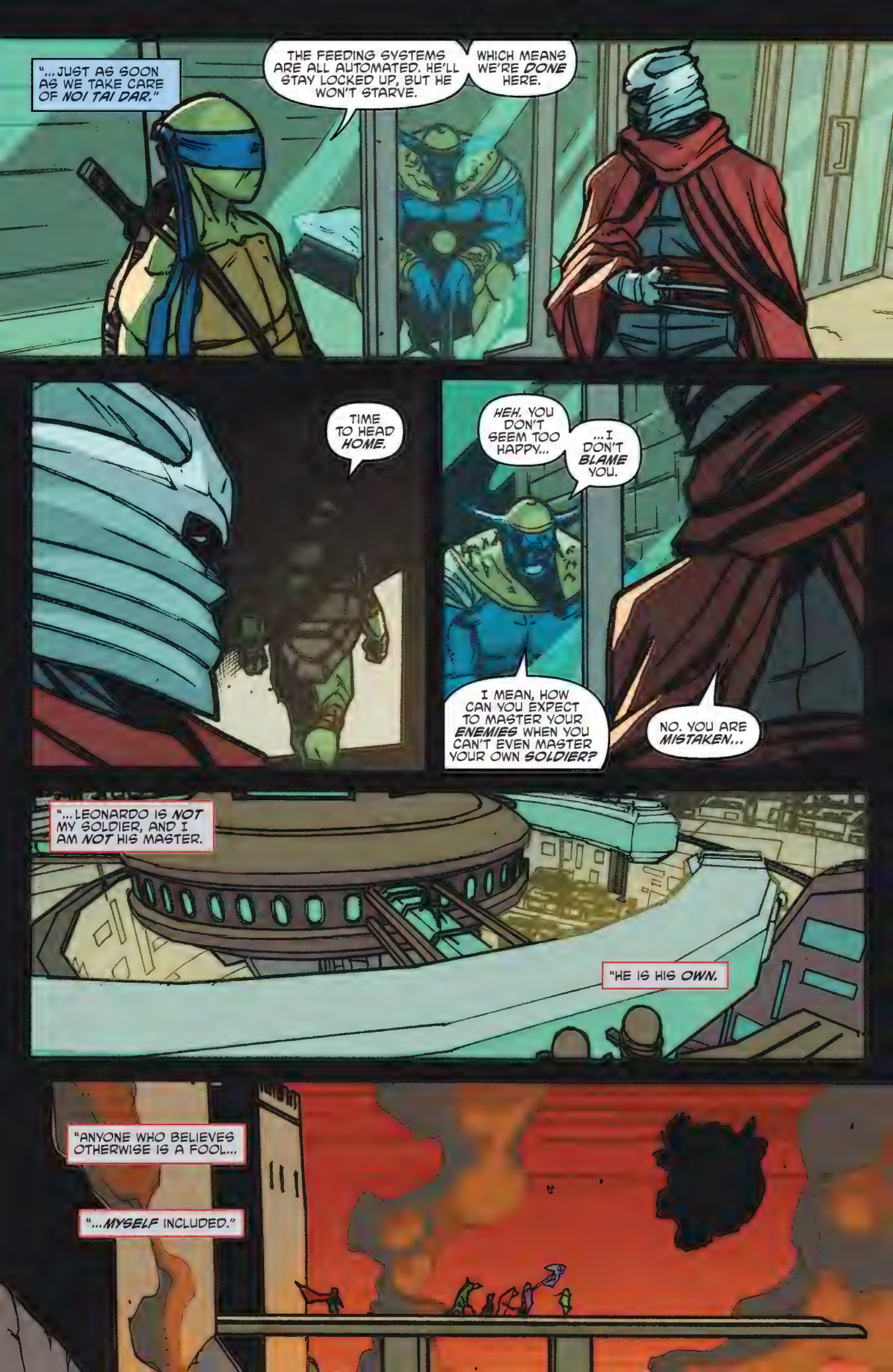
"...WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO RETURN TO CITY HALL TO OVERSEE *OPERATIONAL CONTROL* OF THIS MISSION."
I *KNOW* WHO YOU ARE, RIDICULOUS EARTHLINGS.
WHPZXZ
GNFF!
MY COUSIN NULL KEEPS ME *APPRISED* OF THE SO-CALLED MEN AND FILTHY MUTANTS WHO DARE *OPPOSE* HER ON YOUR PATHETIC WORLD.
WRONG... *ERF*... DEMON.
SHE'S NEVER MET *ME!*
SHZAK
HIGH TIME I *INTRODUCE* MYSELF!
INDEED.

RAHHH!
SHLIP
MORONS! YOU'VE MADE YOUR LAST MISTAKES!
YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME IN MY OWN DOMINION?!
FWAK
WHOM
HRNT!
DEFEAT YOU?
NO.
SHMPPP
GAGH!
WE WILL DESTROY YOU!
KRAK
CHERUBAE... SISTER.
SHOULDN'T WE HELP THEM?
BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS, AZRAEL...

"...I DON'T BELIEVE THEY NEED US TO."
RAHHH!
UNH!
KONK
OUR ONLY MISTAKE WAS IN BELIEVING WE WERE COMING TO HELL.
CHOK
WHEN IN TRUTH...
FWAM
...IT WAS WE WHO BROUGHT HELL TO YOU.
LEONARDO?
HHRRNN...
YES, MASTER?
FINISH HIM.

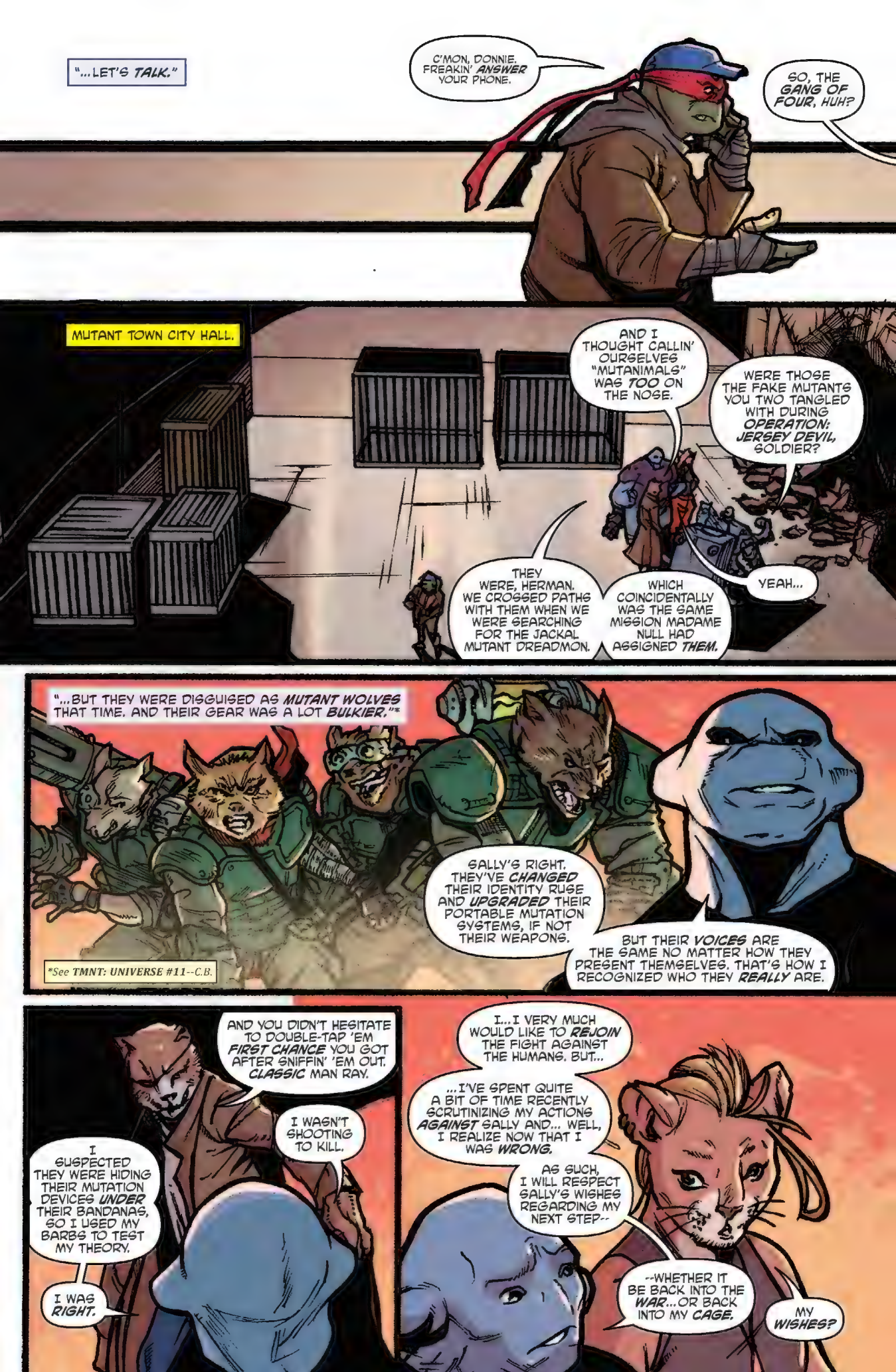
NO... PLEASE... MERCY...
...I BEG YOU.
NO.
HE'S ALREADY FINISHED.
SHMP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? MERCY IS NOT AN OPTION.
TO BECOME A TRUE MASTER, YOU MUST BE WILLING TO MAKE LIFE-AND-DEATH DECISIONS, FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS. JUST AS I ALWAYS HAVE.
JUST AS YOUR FATHER BEFORE YOU.

THAT'S JUST IT, SAKI.
I'M NOT YOU.
EVOKE... THEN REVOKE.
AND I'M NOT MY FATHER.
CHERUBAE, PLEASE CONTACT CUDLEY.
LET HIM KNOW WE'LL BE READY TO GO...


"...JUST AS SOON AS WE TAKE CARE OF NOI TAI DAR."
THE FEEDING SYSTEMS ARE ALL AUTOMATED. HE'LL STAY LOCKED UP, BUT HE WON'T STARVE.
WHICH MEANS WE'RE DONE HERE.
TIME TO HEAD HOME.
HEH. YOU DON'T SEEM TOO HAPPY...
...I DON'T BLAME YOU.
I MEAN, HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO MASTER YOUR ENEMIES WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN MASTER YOUR OWN SOLDIER?
NO. YOU ARE MISTAKEN...
"...LEONARDO IS NOT MY SOLDIER, AND I AM NOT HIS MASTER.
"HE IS HIS OWN.
"ANYONE WHO BELIEVES OTHERWISE IS A FOOL...
"...MYSELF INCLUDED."

"AS YOU CAN SEE BEHIND ME, MAYOR STOCKMAN IS NOW RETURNING TO CITY HALL, WHICH REMAINS UNDER HEIGHTENED SECURITY SINCE THE RECENT MUTANT TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST THE MAYOR'S TCRI FACILITY."
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE YET TO HEAR OFFICIALLY FROM THE MAYOR ABOUT THE NEXT STEPS HE PLANS TO TAKE IN COMBATTING THE MUTANT THREAT IN THE CITY, AS WELL AS INSIDE THE WALLS OF MUTANT TOWN...
...SOURCES IN HIS ADMINISTRATION HAVE STATED HE WILL BE SPEAKING TO THE CITY SOON.
BUT WITH THE NEW CITY HALL SECURITY MEASURES I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED, AND REPORTS THAT THE EARTH PROTECTION FORCE IS MASS-STAGING ITS TROOPS AND VEHICLES...
...IT APPEARS THAT MAYOR STOCKMAN IS PREPARING TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE MUTANT TERRORISTS.
IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW RIGHT YOU ARE, YOU OBNOXIOUS BLOWHARD.
BURNE THOMPSON, CHANNEL 6 NEWS...
...REPORTING LIVE FROM CITY HALL.

HERE YOU GO, MR. MAYOR.
I'LL ESCORT YOU INSIDE WHILE SERGEANT WINTER SECURES THE VEHICLE.
UM, SIR... THINK I'LL RUN A SECURITY CHECK ON THE PERIMETER BEFORE I HEAD TO THE GARAGE...
"...JUST TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE."
GOOD IDEA, SERGEANT.
WE'LL BE IN THE COMMAND CENTER WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED.
SERGEANT WINTER.
DETECTIVE LEWIS.
HOPE YOU TAKE YOUR COFFEE BLACK.
COPY THAT, SIR.
IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY?
GOOD MAN...


"...LET'S TALK."
C'MON, DONNIE. FREAKIN' ANSWER YOUR PHONE.
SO, THE GANG OF FOUR, HUH?
MUTANT TOWN CITY HALL.
AND I THOUGHT CALLIN' OURSELVES "MUTANIMALS" WAS TOO ON THE NOSE.
WERE THOSE THE FAKE MUTANTS YOU TWO TANGLED WITH DURING OPERATION: JERSEY DEVIL, SOLDIER?
YEAH...
WHICH COINCIDENTALLY WAS THE SAME MISSION MADAME NULL HAD ASSIGNED THEM.
THEY WERE, HERMAN. WE CROSSED PATHS WITH THEM WHEN WE WERE SEARCHING FOR THE JACKAL MUTANT DREADMON.
"...BUT THEY WERE DISGUISED AS MUTANT WOLVES THAT TIME. AND THEIR GEAR WAS A LOT BULKIER."*
SALLY'S RIGHT. THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR IDENTITY RUSE AND UPGRADED THEIR PORTABLE MUTATION SYSTEMS, IF NOT THEIR WEAPONS.
BUT THEIR VOICES ARE THE SAME NO MATTER HOW THEY PRESENT THEMSELVES. THAT'S HOW I RECOGNIZED WHO THEY REALLY ARE.
*See TMNT: UNIVERSE #11--C.B.
AND YOU DIDN'T HESITATE TO DOUBLE-TAP 'EM FIRST CHANCE YOU GOT AFTER SNIFFIN' 'EM OUT. CLASSIC MAN RAY.
I WASN'T SHOOTING TO KILL.
I SUSPECTED THEY WERE HIDING THEIR MUTATION DEVICES UNDER THEIR BANDANAS, SO I USED MY BARBS TO TEST MY THEORY.
I WAS RIGHT.
I...I VERY MUCH WOULD LIKE TO REJOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE HUMANS. BUT...
...I'VE SPENT QUITE A BIT OF TIME RECENTLY SCRUTINIZING MY ACTIONS AGAINST SALLY AND... WELL, I REALIZE NOW THAT I WAS WRONG.
AS SUCH, I WILL RESPECT SALLY'S WISHES REGARDING MY NEXT STEP--
--WHETHER IT BE BACK INTO THE WAR...OR BACK INTO MY CAGE.
MY WISHES?

IT WAS NEVER *MY WISH* THAT YOU WERE EVER *IN* THAT CAGE, RAY. THEN AGAIN, IT WAS NEVER MY WISH THAT YOU'D TRY TO HAVE ME *KILLED,* EITHER.
BUT PISSED AND HURT AS I STILL AM, I'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT THE *REST* OF MUTANT TOWN RIGHT NOW, NOT JUST *ME.*
SO, MY "WISH" IS THAT YOU HELP ME *STOP* THE VIOLENCE THIS TIME INSTEAD OF *STARTING* IT.
FAIR ENOUGH.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
SEE THAT?
ONE BIG HAPPY *FAMILY* AGAIN, READY TO TAKE ON THE NASTY HUMANS TOGETHER.
DON'T *PUSH* IT, HOB. THIS ISN'T A FIGHT AGAINST HUMANS. IT'S A FIGHT *FOR* MUTANTS.
BIG DIFFERENCE.
YOU *SAY* SO.
SPEAKING OF FAMILIES, WHAT'S TAKIN' OUR TOKEN *NINJA* SO LONG?
"WE GOT A *JOB* TO DO."
DAMMIT.
WHAT'S GOING ON, RAPH?
NO IDEA. I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO DONNIE OR *ANY* OF THE OTHERS.
I CAN'T HELP YOU RIGHT NOW, HOB. I GOTTA GET TO THE *LAIR...*

"...SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT."
SO YOU AGREE... SOMETHING'S WRONG ABOUT ALL THIS.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ALL BUT, YEAH...A LOT OF IT'S NOT PASSING MY SMELL TEST.
AND YOUR BOSS?

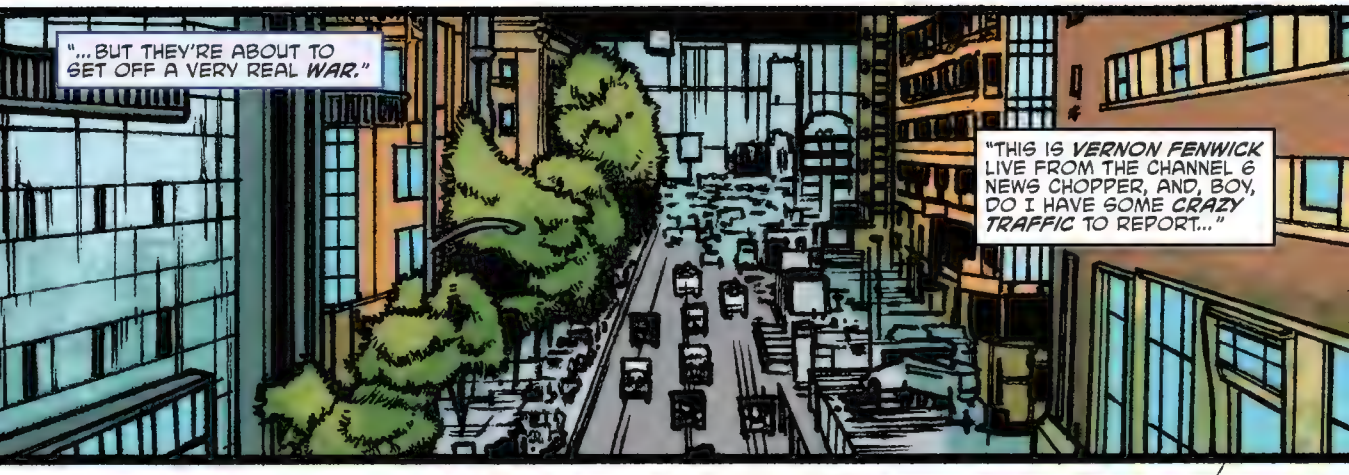
I'M PRETTY SURE COLONEL KNIGHT'S GOT HIS DOUBTS, TOO.
BUT HE'S TOO HYPERFOCUSED ON THE BIG PAYCHECK WE'RE GETTING PAID--
--AND THE CHANCE AT GETTING SOME BIG PAYBACK FOR WHAT HOB DID TO HIS WIFE--TO DEVIATE FROM THE JOB WE WERE HIRED TO DO.*
*See TMNT #70--Conspiritorial Charles

WHAT? PROTECT THE MAYOR?
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU I SPOTTED OL' BAXTER SCHMOOZING IT UP WITH THE NULL INDUSTRIES CEO RIGHT AFTER HIS TCRI BUILDING WAS BLOWN TO BITS?
SO? RICH FOLKS HANGING OUT WITH RICH FOLKS ISN'T TOO WEIRD.
MAYBE NOT.

BUT WHEN TWO MAD SCIENTISTS WITH A HISTORY OF MUTANT EXPERIMENTATION START HANGING OUT, THINGS DON'T SEEM SO COINCIDENTAL.
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU THROW THOSE MUTANT TURTLE FRAUDS INTO THE MIX.

WELL, THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING OFF ABOUT THE MUTANT TERRORISTS.
WE THOUGHT WE SAW ONE TURN INTO A HUMAN IN MUTANT TOWN.
BUT THE MAYOR'S INSIDE SOURCES INSIST IT WAS THE SMART ONE--DONATELLO--USING SOME KINDA HOLOGRAPHIC TECH TO THROW US OFF.
LEMME GUESS... ANONYMOUS "SOURCES" COMING WITH THE OLD PSYOP EXCUSE?
TALK ABOUT FALSE FLAG 101.

I'M TELLING YOU, ALL THIS IS NOT HAPPENING BY ACCIDENT-- THE ATTACKS ON STOCKMAN, THE MILITARY BUILDUP. NONE OF IT.
IT'S ALL DELIBERATE, AND IT'S ALL PHONY, I KNOW IT.
JUST LIKE I KNOW THOSE FOUR TERRORISTS AREN'T THE REAL TURTLES...


"...BUT THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET OFF A VERY REAL *WAR.*"
"THIS IS *VERNON FENWICK* LIVE FROM THE CHANNEL 6 NEWS CHOPPER, AND, BOY, DO I HAVE SOME *CRAZY TRAFFIC* TO REPORT..."

...AND IT'S *NOT* THE NORMAL RUSH HOUR MADNESS.
THE E.P.F. IS CURRENTLY MOVING TOWARD MUTANT TOWN IN *FULL FORCE*...

...AND THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE LOADED FOR *BEAR.*
THIS IS *DIRECTOR BRAUNZE.*
WE'RE FIVE MIKES OUT FROM THE MAIN GATE. GET THOSE DOORS OPEN, AND *CLEAR* THE ENTRANCE CORRIDOR OF ALL CIVILIANS.
LAST THING WE NEED IS UNNECESSARY ROADKILL WHEN WE BREACH.
AND GET THAT *MUTANT MAYOR* ON THE HORN...

"...LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T WORK THIS THING OUT *PEACEFULLY* BEFORE WE GOTTA GET ROUGH."
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE, IT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR MUTANT TOWN.
I CAN TELL YOU FROM MY EXPERIENCE REPORTING FROM THE FRONT LINES IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THE MILITARY DOESN'T ROLL OUT LIKE THIS UNLESS THEY MEAN...
UH... VERNON.

...SERIOUS BUSINESS.
CRUD.

B'WOOM

STRIKE FORCE ALPHA TO *COLONEL CH'RELL*...

...WE'VE ENTERED ENEMY AIRSPACE AND HAVE DRAWN *FIRST BLOOD*, SIR.

EXCELLENT. CONTINUE TO DRAW BLOOD UNTIL THERE IS NONE *LEFT* TO DRAW. WE WILL *RAZE* THIS MUTANT SLUM TO THE GROUND...

...AND *EVERYONE* IN IT.

"OH..."

...NO.

"CHECKPOINT, WHAT THE HELL *WAS* THAT?"

ARE THE MUTANTS FIRING ON *CIVILIANS*?!

NEGATIVE, SIR!

IT'S *NOT* THE MUTANTS!

IT'S... I THINK IT'S *ALIENS!*

"WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!"

BWOOM

HOLY--!

BIG BOOM! BIG BOOM!

MUTANT TOWN'S BEING ATTACKED FROM THE *SKY*.

THE *HUMANS*?

NO. THOSE ARE *ALIEN CRAFT*.

SALLY, YOU BETTER GET BUSY DOIN' YOUR *MAYOR* THING. THE *REST* OF US...

"...GOT *WORK* TO DO."

CHECKPOINT! GET THAT DAMN GATE *OPEN*! WE NEED *CLEARER* FIELDS OF FIRE!

WHAT ABOUT THE *MUTANTS*, SIR?!

FORGET THE MUTANTS...

WE'VE GOT ALIENS TO FIGHT!

WHAT THE--

WERE THOSE *SPACESHIPS*?

GREAT. ON TOP OF ALL THE *OTHER* BULLCRAP GOING ON...

"...NOW WE'VE GOTTA ADD *ALIEN INVASION* TO OUR BINGO CARDS."

MR. MAYOR, MY GUYS ON THE STREET ARE SAYING THE *EXPLOSIONS* WE'RE HEARING ARE FROM--

ATTACKING EXTRATERRESTRIALS, COLONEL? YES, I CAN *SEE* THAT FOR MYSELF.

ZARA, GET *MADAME NULL* ON THE PHONE IMMEDIATELY...

"...SHE AND I NEED TO DISCUSS SOME *BAD BUSINESS*."

MADAME NULL... THE *MAYOR* IS CALLING ON THE SECURE LINE.

OF COURSE, HE IS.

DAMN YOU, *KRANG*...

...THIS WAS *NOT* THE PLAN.

FIRST *GENERAL KRANG*, AND NOW THE *TRICERATON* WHELP.

AND THEN...

"...THIS FILTHY *WORLD*!"

NO...

SH-BOOM

...NOOOOO!

"YOU'RE ALMOST *HOME*..."

...BET YOU'RE GETTING EXCITED, MIKEY.
TOTALLY, COMMANDER AZUL.
FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN GONE FOREVER.
I'LL BET.
HOW WE LOOKING, TRIP?
PASSING THROUGH THE PORTAL NOW, COMMANDER. COORDINATES ARE LOCKED.
NEXT STOP...
...EARTH.
OH... NO...
"...WE'RE TOO LATE!"

art by SANTTOS

art by FERD PE

ISSUE #137

--AAAH!
WHAT THE HELL IS...
A PORTAL? WAS THIS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN? WHAT DID YOU DO, DONNIE?

AH, CRAP! DON!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
I WAS-- I TRAVELED TO THE FUTURE, AND SAW MYSELF, AND--
DONNIE. LOOK AT ME. I THINK YOU JUST FROZE TIME.
LOOK AT SERI AND CARMEN. YOU GOTTA REVOKE THE MAGIC YOU CONJURED UP.
NOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
REVOKE...

...AH! DID WE WIN?
WE SURE DID!
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT YEAH!
THAT WAS WILD. WHAT'D YOU DO TO THEM, DON?
I UNEXPECTEDLY CREATED A TEMPORAL PORTAL AND THEN TRAVELED THROUGH TIME TO THE FUTURE... I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT LATER. RIGHT NOW WE--
BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
DID MY UNREVOKED MAGIC GO HAYWIRE...
LET'S INVESTIGATE FIRST! C'MON!

WHAT HAPPENED?! THIS LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR EXPLOSION--

THOSE ARE UTROM SHIPS!
I KNOW WHO SENT THEM.

"IT'S CH'RELL."
BOOM
BKOA

"HE'S COME FOR ME."
BRA-KOOM
KSHOOM
DONNIE! WHERE ARE YOU?! NO...
RAPH?!
WELL, WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO IT IS.

YOU'RE OKAY!
EVERYONE'S SAFE, YEAH. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
FINE, I DIDN'T EVEN *WANT* A HUG.
AWW, RAPH, YOU GOOBER! I LOVE WHEN YOU'RE MUSHY!
YEAH, WELL, DON'T GET USED TO IT.

SERI, NO! YOU NEED TO GET BACK IN THE BUNKER WITH SHEENA AND THE OTHERS, WHERE IT'S SAFE.
NO! CH'RELL WANTS ME. THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME.
I THINK SHE'S RIGHT, DONNIE.
WE CAN'T JUST LET HER SURRENDER HERSELF TO THEM! THE E.P.F. CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS...
CH'RELL! HERE I AM! FACE ME, COWARD!
VVMMMMMM
SSSSS

THERE YOU ARE, REGENTA.
NO, TRICERATONS... CH'RELL, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
HOW DARE YOU USE THE BODIES OF MY PEOPLE...
...THESE WARRIORS, AND POOR DR. ZURA... THEY WERE NOBLE CREATURES.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD ENJOY SEEING SOME FAMILIAR FACES.
NOW HAND YOURSELF OVER...
...OR I'LL RAZE THIS CITY TO THE GROUND.
SERI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
NO. I WILL NOT SURRENDER, CH'RELL.

SO BE IT, THEN.
PROTECT SERI WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT, YOU GUYS.
TAKE THIS.
FOR THE HERD!

YOU WILL DIE THIS NIGHT, CH'RELL!
SKLUTCH
WHOK
SLAM
ZRRAK
ZOK
ZZMMM
KYE-KLICK

SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM
SHOOOOOP
INCREDIBLE.
DIE, CH'RELL!
SHRAK
YOU KILLED MY MOTHER, NOW I KILL YOU!
KRAKK

NO... MOTHER?
LIKE I SAID, REGENTA. A FAMILIAR FACE.
RAAGH!
ZRRAK

NO!
AAAGH!
SHRAKOW
DONNIE!
DONATELLO, IS IT? IT SEEMS YOU'RE BEATEN, BUT I HAVE A PROPOSAL.
I'LL SPARE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS...
...IF YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ARCANE TECHNOLOGY TO ME.
NO WAY!
THEN DIE.

HEY, GUYS, NEED SOME HELP?
WHAT?! YOU!
YES!
MIKEY?!
AND SOME WEIRD ALIENS, I GUESS!
THIS'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, CH'RELL!
KILL THEM ALL!

KRAK
BROK
KRZAP
SHKOOO
KSHHH
YEAH, GUYS, WE GOT THIS!
GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, MAN!
UTROMS GO DOWN EASY.
BROK
SKISH

VENGEANCE!
KSHHHHH
DIE, CH'RELL...
HE... NO! HE'S NOT EVEN HERE?!
HE MUST'VE BEEN PILOTING REMOTELY. I'M SORRY, SERI...
WHERE DID YOU SAY THE UTROMS' BASE OF POWER IS AGAIN? BURNOW ISLAND?
YEAH. I'D WAGER HE'S THERE, WHERE IT'S NICE AND SAFE.

N-NO, HE--HE CAN'T-- I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY! I...
WE'LL GET HIM, SERI, OKAY?
THE ONLY REASON WE'RE HERE IS TO FINALLY TAKE CARE OF CH'RELL AND KRANG.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME WITH US TO FIND CH'RELL.
SEEMS LIKE WE WANT VENGEANCE AGAINST HIM AS MUCH AS YOU DO.
YES. THANK YOU. HE KILLED MY MOTHER, AND MY PEOPLE.
WE'LL DESTROY HIM... TOGETHER.
BUT BEFORE WE GO...

"...MY MOTHER, THE GOOD DR. ZURA, AND MY WARRIORS MUST BE HONORED."

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, DONATELLO.
GOODBYE, CARMEN. THANK YOU FOR VIDEO GAMES.
WE'LL GET TO PLAY AGAIN SOON, DON'T WORRY.
GOODBYE, MIGHTY PEPPERONI.
GOODBYE, EVERYONE!
I'LL SEE YOU ALL AGAIN AFTER I'VE REAPED VENGEANCE AND FREED MY PEOPLE.
GOOD LUCK, SERI! BYE, NOVA POSSE!

FORGIVE ME FOR BRINGING THIS DESTRUCTION UPON YOU.
I WILL AVENGE YOU, TOO.
CH'RELL WILL PAY IN BLOOD FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.
CH'RELL, YOUR GRAVE AWAITS.
THE TRICERATON REGENTA IS COMING FOR YOU.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN & SOPHIE CAMPBELL

THE ALLIANCE #5

art by ROI MERCADO
colors by WILLIAM SORRES

LISTEN.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW.
HUMAN!
WE'RE GONNA FIND YOU, HUMAN!
AND I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO TELL YOU.
"FOUR DAYS AGO, I FOUND OUT WHO'S BEEN IMPERSONATING THE TURTLES. THE SO-CALLED GANG OF FOUR. IT WAS A GOOD LEAD. A GOOD START. BUT I NEEDED TO KNOW MORE. SO...
"...I LEFT MUTANT TOWN BEHIND.
"IT WASN'T AN EASY DECISION. I WAS DOING IMPORTANT WORK THERE. SENDING THE MUTANT COMMUNITY'S STORIES OUT TO THE MASSES.
"BUT I KNEW MONA LISA AND LOLA CRUZ COULD CONTINUE THAT BATTLE WHILE I FOUGHT THE LARGER WAR."
THE WAR AGAINST BAXTER STOCKMAN.
ALL THE ATTACKS. ALL THE RIOTS AND MAYHEM AND CHAOS--
--IT ALL CAME BACK TO HIM. AS USUAL.

"EVEN THE BOMBING OF STOCKMAN'S OWN TCRI.
"THE BUILDING WAS COMPLETELY EMPTY WHEN IT BLEW--NO EMPLOYEES, NO FILES. NOT EVEN A PAPERCLIP.
TCRI
"HE KNEW IT WAS COMING."
AFTER THAT, THE INVESTIGATION TOOK ME TO CITY HALL. AND THEN TO... WELL... HERE.
"I TAPPED INTO STOCKMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS. AND LEARNED THAT HE'S SECRETLY ALIGNED WITH MADAME NULL.
"THE CEO OF AN INTERDIMENSIONAL CORPORATION, WITH PLANS TO TURN ALL OF NEW YORK INTO MUTANTS.
TCRI
"I THOUGHT NULL INDUSTRIES WAS EMPTY FOR THE NIGHT.
"BUT I WAS WRONG."
A SLOTH? YOU CAPTURED A *SLOTH?*
THREE SLOTHS, MADAME NULL! THEY MUST BE POWERFUL.
THEY'RE A HUGE ATTRACTION AT THE BRONX Z--
THESE *WEAK* TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS AREN'T ENOUGH!
IF I'M GOING TO TURN ALL OF NEW YORK CITY INTO MUTANTS-- AND SELL THEM ON THE INTERDIMENSIONAL MARKET--I NEED MORE! I NEED--
WAIT! I SMELL...

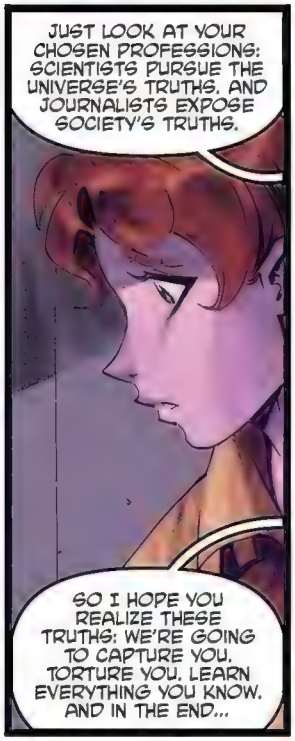
FLICK
AN INTRUDER!
A FILTHY HUMAN INTRUDER.
I AM NOT FILTHY!
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT LATER!
"I KNEW I HAD TO ESCAPE. NOT JUST SURVIVE.
"THAT WAS A SECONDARY CONCERN.
"TO SHARE WHAT I'D LEARNED. TO GET THIS INFORMATION BACK TO MY ALLIES, AND OUT TO THE WORLD.
"THE FUTURE OF NEW YORK CITY, OF EARTH--AND OF SEVERAL DIMENSIONS--DEPENDED ON IT."

YOU COULD HAVE JUST OPENED THE DOOR.
LOOK!
HAVE FUN WITH THAT, KRISA. WE'LL JUST TRACK HER DOWN HERE.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN SLITHER FASTER THAN ME?
"I KNEW SHE WAS RIGHT. I KNEW SHE WAS FASTER.
"BUT I ALSO KNEW THAT I WAS SMALLER.
"AND I KNEW SOME OF THOSE VENTS WOULD GET SMALLER STILL."
URRRGH!
NO! NO!

MADAME NULL, I'VE DEALT WITH THIS HUMAN BEFORE.
ALICE? APOLONIA?
I *LIKED* HER. SHE WAS CONFIDENT, AND CLEVER, AND YOU UNDERESTIMATE HER AT YOUR--
I AM *VERY* FAMILIAR WITH APRIL O'NEIL, AND ALL OUR ADVERSARIES.

DO YOU HEAR ME, APRIL?
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

BAXTER STOCKMAN'S FORMER FLUNKY. STALWART SIDEKICK TO THOSE RIDICULOUS *TURTLES*.
ALWAYS SO UPRIGHT, ALWAYS SO DEDICATED TO THE TRUTH.
AN ADMIRABLE QUALITY, IF IT WASN'T SO DEADLY IN A WORLD FULL OF LIES.


JUST LOOK AT YOUR CHOSEN PROFESSIONS: SCIENTISTS PURSUE THE UNIVERSE'S TRUTHS, AND JOURNALISTS EXPOSE SOCIETY'S TRUTHS.
SO I HOPE YOU REALIZE THESE TRUTHS: WE'RE GOING TO CAPTURE YOU, TORTURE YOU, LEARN EVERYTHING YOU KNOW, AND IN THE END...

...YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS BUILDING ALIVE.

SMASH
CRASH
AHHH!
STAY STILL!
HA!

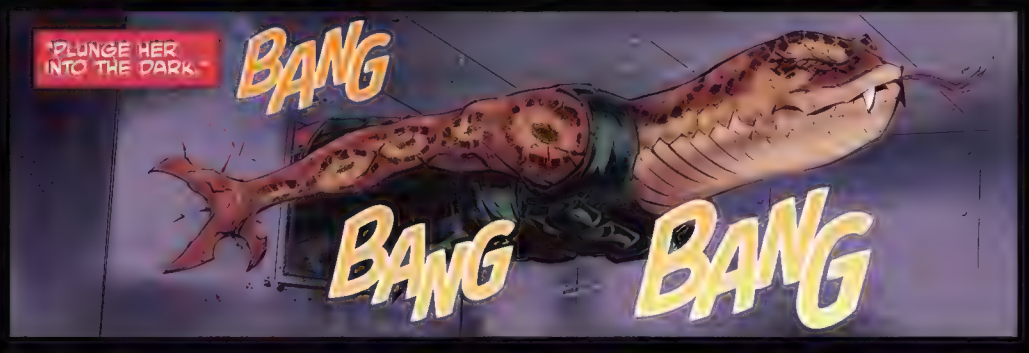
=SIGH=
HRRK!
CAN YOU PLEASE JUST ADMIT WHEN YOU'RE OUTMATCHED?
NNN--
NNNVVR!
AAARGH!

I'VE GOT HER!
ZODI, YOU FOOL!
FOLLOW HER!
MAYBE I WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH SLOTHS.

"I GOT AHEAD OF ZODI BUT NOT BY FAR.
"I STOPPED TRYING TO ESCAPE. AND STARTED WORKING TO GET MY MESSAGE OUT.
"TO GET THE *TRUTH* OUT.
"WHILE I STILL COULD.
IF YOU GET THIS... AND IF I'M GONE... PLEASE KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU ALL. AND THAT I ALWAYS DID MY BEST.
END MESSAGE.
WE'RE GONNA FIND YOU! AND THEN WE'RE GONNA--
--FIND OUT *EVERYTHING* YOU KNOW!
YELL A LITTLE LOUDER, ZODI. GIVE HER EVERY ADVANTAGE YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
WORLD BEST BOSS

BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT. IF WE CAN'T CATCH HER, WE CAN AT LEAST *CORRAL* HER.
SHUT DOWN THE ELEVATORS. LOCK EVERY DOOR. DISABLE THE *COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.*
MY MESSAGE ISN'T SENDING! WHY WON'T IT--
THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING. YOU CAN SOLVE THIS, APRIL.
YOU CAN *DO* THIS!
UNFORTUNATELY...
...I BELIEVE YOU.

DICTATE HER MOVEMENTS.


"PLUNGE HER INTO THE DARK."
BANG
BANG
BANG

CLICK
SIGH

LEAVE HER NOWHERE TO GO BUT UP. AND UP. AND UP.
AND THEN... INSTEAD OF CHASING HER...

EXIT

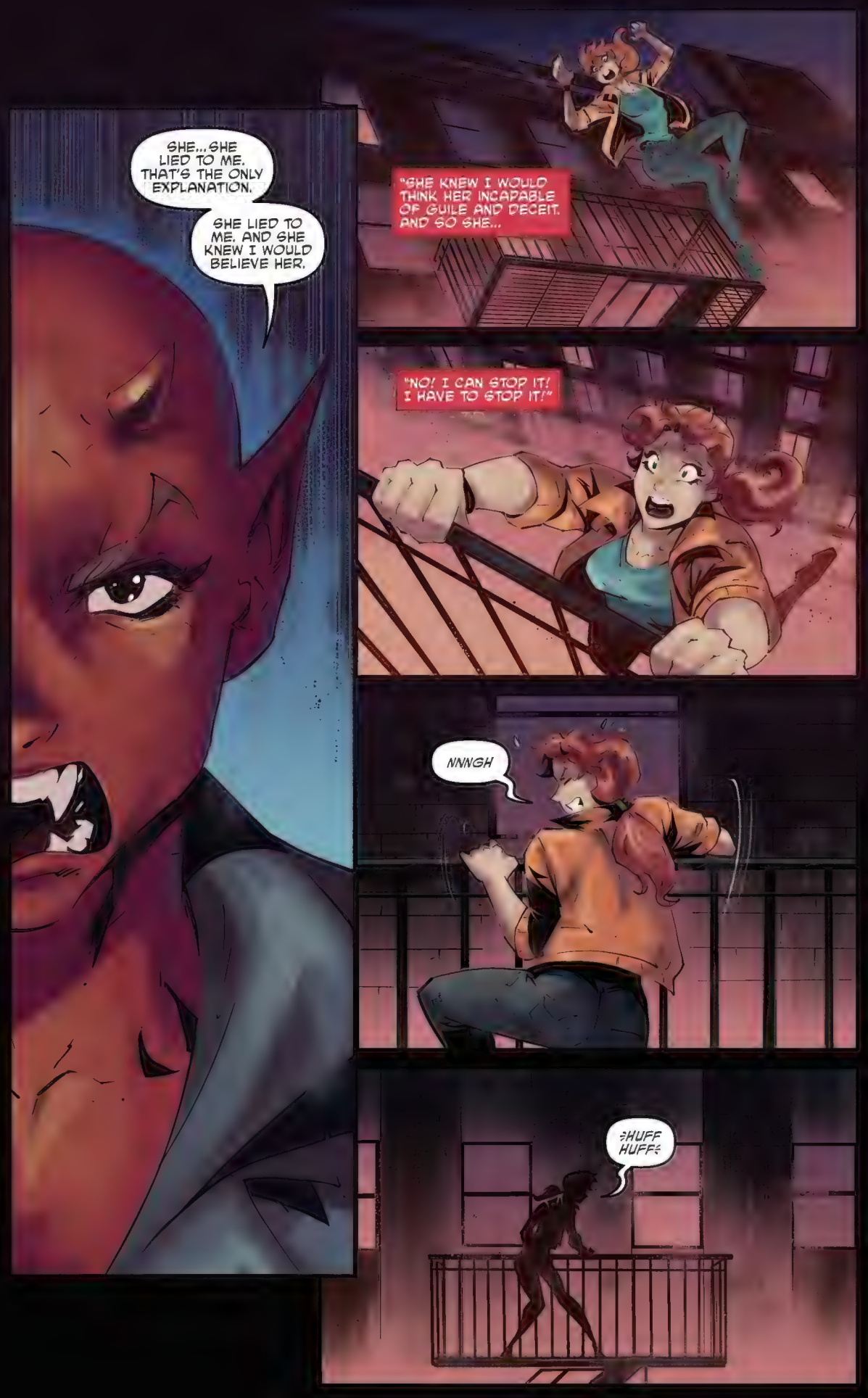
"...WE JUST MEET HER THERE."

APRIL O'NEIL.
WE'VE REACHED THE END. SURELY EVEN YOU CAN ADMIT THAT THIS IS THE END.
YOU'RE CAPTURED. AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE INTERROGATED.
YOU'LL TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW. AND YOU'LL TELL YOUR ALLIES NOTHING.
HA.
HA HA HA HA HA.
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE SO FUNNY?
IT... IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH. ALL ON YOUR OWN.
FIND WHAT OUT?
YOU SAID I'LL TELL MY ALLIES NOTHING. BUT I...
...I ALREADY TOLD THEM.
I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.
IT WAS TRICKY-- HACKING MY WAY THROUGH YOUR COMMUNICATIONS SAFEGUARDS. BUT EVERYTHING I KNOW IS ON ITS WAY TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
NO. NO, I CAN STOP IT!
MAYBE.

BUT I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT.
EITHER WAY, ALL MY SECRETS DIE WITH ME.

NO! I CAN STOP IT! I HAVE TO STOP IT!
I DON'T NEED THIS BUILDING... SHUT DOWN ANYMORE!
CRAAAK

WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THE HUMAN WAS TRYING TO GET A MESSAGE OUT.
BUT SHE FAILED, AND THEN *TRAPPED* ME IN THIS ROOM-- SLIPPED PAST ME AND LOCKED THE DOOR RIGHT BEHIND HER.
AND SO I MADE SURE SHE COULDN'T TRY AGAIN.
NO. *I* TRAPPED YOU, YOU FOOL.
AH. WELL, THAT DOES MAKE MORE SENSE.
AND THE HUMAN?
GONE. ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
OH. WELL.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO FIND KRISA, THEN, *HUH?*
OR IT COULD WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW.
WILL YOU **SHUT UP** AND LET ME THINK?


"SHE KNEW I WOULD THINK HER INCAPABLE OF GUILE AND DECEIT. AND SO SHE...
"NO! I CAN STOP IT! I HAVE TO STOP IT!"
NNNGH
SHE... SHE LIED TO ME. THAT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION.
SHE LIED TO ME. AND SHE KNEW I WOULD BELIEVE HER.
=HUFF HUFF=

SHE TOTALLY PLAYED YOU, IS WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE TO ME.
GOOD FOR HER.
WATCH YOURSELF.

TIME AROUND
MOM... DAD... AND CASEY!
APRIL! WHAT HAPPENED?! WHY--WHY AREN'T YOU IN MUTANT TOWN?
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, ALL THAT CAN WAIT! FOR NOW JUST LET HER REST!
NO... NO TIME TO REST.
CALL DONNIE. THERE ARE... SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW.

LATER...
MR. O'NEIL AND CASEY JONES MADE SEVERAL CALLS, AND BEFORE LONG, A MEETING CONVENED.
2ND TIME AROUND
--AND WHERE THE HELL IS KARAI?
SHE'S THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE HERE FOR THIS. SHE INSISTED WE MEET IN PERSON!
DETECTIVE KARA LEWIS
UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE FOOT HAVE DECIDED TO GO IN WITH THE ALIENS.
DETECTIVE--
WHAT? THEY'VE WORKED FOR ALIENS BEFORE, RIGHT?
CASEY JONES
APRIL O'NEIL
SERGEANT WINTER
ONLY WHEN OUR INTERESTS ALIGNED--

--AND IN THIS CASE, THEY DO NOT.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY TARDINESS. I WAS CULTIVATING AN ASSET.
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.
I THOUGHT IT EXPLAINED IT ALL.
WHAT, DO NINJAS NOT GET SARCASM?

CASEY SAYS YOU'VE BEEN BUSY FOLLOWING YOUR OWN AGENDA INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON LEADING THE FOOT CLAN AGAINST NULL AND THE OTHERS.
HAS HE?
THAT'S NOT HOW I PUT IT... BUT YOU GOTTA ADMIT YOUR NINJAS JUST AREN'T AS EFFECTIVE WITHOUT YOUR HAND ON THE WHEEL.
YEAH. AND WE CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING LESS THAN YOUR BEST. NOT WITH ALL THAT'S AT STAKE.
MADAME NULL WANTS TO ENSLAVE EVERYONE IN NEW YORK. AND DO YOU THINK SHE'LL STOP THERE?

GIVE ME A DOLLAR.
...WHAT?
GIVE ME.
A DOLLAR.
I GOT YOU.
FINE. *HERE.* WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, A MAGIC TRICK?
OR DID YOU JUST NEED COFFEE ON THE WAY BACK TO WHEREVER IT IS YOU LIVE?

NEITHER. MONEY HAS CHANGED HANDS.
YOU HAVE *HIRED* THE *FOOT CLAN,* MISS O'NEIL.
...WHAT?
OUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS WAR HAS BEEN, TO THIS POINT, VOLUNTARY, FOLLOWING THE SHREDDER'S LONG-STANDING EXAMPLE OF PURSUING WHATEVER AGENDA WE CHOOSE.
BUT AT ITS CORE, A NINJA CLAN IS MEANT TO SERVE OTHERS.
THERE IS NO SHAME IN ALTERING OR POSTPONING OUR OWN GOALS, BUT TO FAIL A CLIENT WOULD BE DEEPLY DISHONORABLE.
I'VE TAKEN YOUR MONEY SO YOU ARE NOW A CLIENT. YOUR ENEMIES ARE OUR ENEMIES, AND WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THEY ARE *UNDONE.*
IN SHORT, YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU WANTED--*OUR BEST.* DOES THIS PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE?
NO. BUT I BELIEVE THAT YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
IT'S UP TO ME TO PROVIDE *PROOF* OF MY COMMITMENT, THEN.
I SHALL DO SO BY KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE... AND FOR SAKE OF THE DETECTIVE'S CONSCIENCE, THIS KILLING WILL BE PURELY FIGURATIVE, BUT STILL CATASTROPHIC TO NULL'S PLANS.
PAY ATTENTION NOW. YOU ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY...

art by PABLO VERDUGO
colors by GIGI DUTREIX

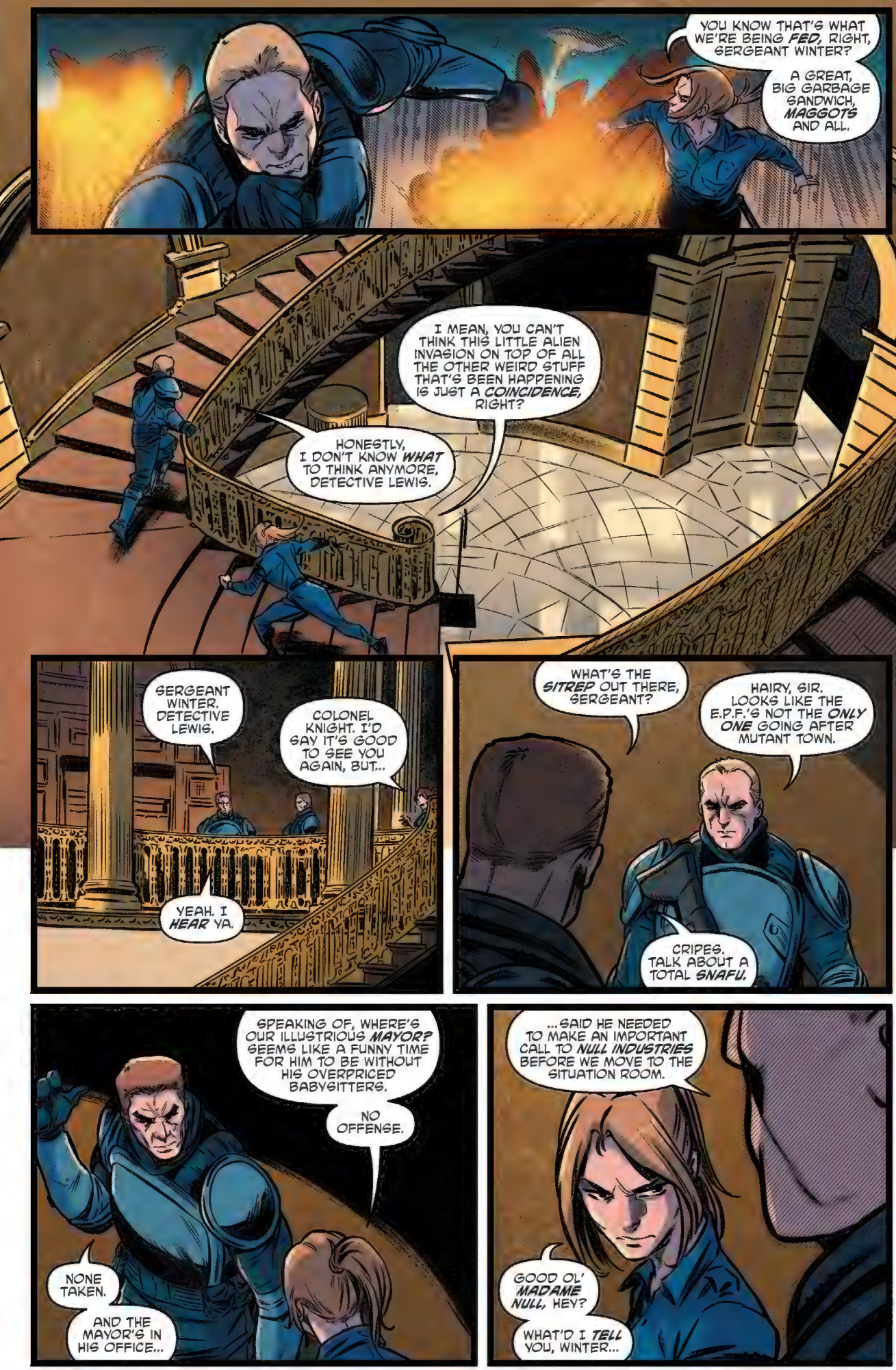
art by VINCENZO FEDERICI
colors by MATT HERMS

THE ARMAGEDDON GAME #6

BURNOW ISLAND.
OUR ENEMIES WILL BE HERE SOON.
"FROM THIS PATHETIC PLANET AND OUR OWN DIMENSION X, THEY HAVE UNITED AGAINST US.
"THE HYPOCRITES DARE TO CALL THEMSELVES RIGHTEOUS, YET THEY SEEK OUR COMPLETE ANNIHILATION--"
--YOU, ME...ALL OF US.
AND THE DELUSIONAL FOOLS HAVE CONVINCED THEMSELVES THAT THEY CAN DEFEAT US...

"...EMBOLDENED BY NOTHING MORE THAN *LAUGHABLE* HONOR AND HOLLOW *VICTORY.**
*See TMNT #137-- Charles "Back Catalog" Beacham
"BUT THESE SELF-PROCLAIMED HEROES FORGET, WE ARE *SOLDIERS,* BORN AND BRED. WE KNOW THAT ONE BATTLE-- WHETHER WON OR LOST-- DOES *NOT* A WAR MAKE.
"AND THIS, MY GOOD SOLDIERS, IS MOST *DEFINITELY* A WAR... AND IT IS NOT *OVER.*"
WE WILL NOT *QUIT,* WE WILL NOT *SURRENDER,* AND UNLIKE OUR DISGRACED AND *FALLEN GENERAL...*
...WE WILL NOT *LOSE.*
WE'RE *WITH* YOU, COLONEL CH'RELL. ALL THE WAY.
WHAT ARE YOUR *ORDERS,* SIR?

LIEUTENANT KLEVE, SEND OUT A MESSAGE TO OUR FORCES ATTACKING MUTANT TOWN.
TELL THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR ASSAULT UNTIL NO MUTANT IS LEFT ALIVE IN THAT FETID HOVEL.
AND THE HUMANS, SIR?
ALL WARS HAVE COLLATERAL DAMAGE, KLEVE. WHY SHOULD THIS ONE BE ANY DIFFERENT?
CORPORAL MONTUORO, BEGIN DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS. I WANT OUR ENEMIES TO MEET ONLY FORTIFICATIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS WHEN THEY ARRIVE.
IF THEY WISH TO FACE ME IN DIRECT COMBAT, I WANT THEM TO EARN IT...
...THE HARD WAY.
AYE, AYE, SIR!
SEE TO MY ORDERS, AND THE NEXT BATTLE IN THIS WAR WILL BE OURS.
BEFORE THIS DAY IS DONE, THAT MEWLING REGENTA AND HER UPSTART COMPANIONS WILL EXPERIENCE PAIN AND SUFFERING BEYOND COMPREHENSION.
AND THEN, WHEN WE'VE FINALLY CRUSHED THEM, THIS ENTIRE PITIFUL WORLD WILL KNOW FEAR LIKE NEVER BEFORE.
OH... ONE MORE THING.
REMOVE THAT TRAITOROUS PILE OF RUBBISH FROM MY COMMAND CENTER ON YOUR WAY OUT.
"GARBAGE!"


YOU KNOW THAT'S WHAT WE'RE BEING *FED,* RIGHT, SERGEANT WINTER?
A GREAT, BIG GARBAGE SANDWICH, *MAGGOTS* AND ALL.
I MEAN, YOU CAN'T THINK THIS LITTLE ALIEN INVASION ON TOP OF ALL THE OTHER WEIRD STUFF THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IS JUST A *COINCIDENCE,* RIGHT?
HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK ANYMORE, DETECTIVE LEWIS.
SERGEANT WINTER. DETECTIVE LEWIS.
COLONEL KNIGHT. I'D SAY IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BUT...
YEAH. I *HEAR* YA.
WHAT'S THE *SITREP* OUT THERE, SERGEANT?
HAIRY, SIR. LOOKS LIKE THE E.P.F.'S NOT THE *ONLY ONE* GOING AFTER MUTANT TOWN.
CRIPES. TALK ABOUT A TOTAL *SNAFU.*
SPEAKING OF, WHERE'S OUR ILLUSTRIOUS *MAYOR?* SEEMS LIKE A FUNNY TIME FOR HIM TO BE WITHOUT HIS OVERPRICED BABYSITTERS.
NO OFFENSE.
NONE TAKEN.
AND THE MAYOR'S IN HIS OFFICE...
...SAID HE NEEDED TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CALL TO *NULL INDUSTRIES* BEFORE WE MOVE TO THE SITUATION ROOM.
GOOD OL' *MADAME NULL,* HEY?
WHAT'D I *TELL* YOU, WINTER...

"...A TOTAL GARBAGE SANDWICH."
SO WE GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO GIVE GENERAL KRANG A SHINY, NEW, HIGHLY UPGRADED, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, FULLY SUBSERVIENT HOST, AND THIS IS HOW THE PINK MORON REPAYS US...
LIVE
...WITH A FULL-SCALE INVASION?
FORGIVE MY CONFUSION BUT I THOUGHT THE ENTIRE POINT OF THIS LITTLE TEAM-UP WAS THE SUBJUGATION, MANUFACTURE, AND SALE OF MUTANTS...
LIVE
6
MASSACRE IN MUTANT TOWN
...NOT THEIR WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER.
YOU AREN'T CONFUSED, BAXTER. SLAUGHTER WAS NEVER PART OF THE GAME PLAN.
NO...
...BUT CHAOS ALWAYS WAS. AND CHAOS BEGETS CHAOS, AS I SO OFTEN SAY.
AND SOMETIMES SING.
IT APPEARS OUR GOOD GENERAL'S HOMECOMING WAS NOT SO GRAND AS HE ANTICIPATED. OR WELCOMED.
LIVE
6
MASSACRE IN MUTANT TOWN
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, RAT KING...

...THAT KRANG'S NOT *LEADING* THIS ATTACK?
HOW COULD YOU *KNOW* THAT?
AH, BUT THERE ARE *MANY* THINGS I KNOW, MY MAYOR-KNIGHT...
...SUCH AS THE FACT THAT THERE IS ALWAYS *OPPORTUNITY* TO BE FOUND WITHIN THE MAELSTROM OF CHAOS.
IT IS SIMPLY UP TO US TO IDENTIFY AND *EXPLOIT* IT.
US?
OTHER THAN INCESSANTLY BANAL COMMENTARY, WHAT VALUE HAVE *YOU* OFFERED TO THIS PROCESS?
WELL...
...BRINGING *TOGETHER* THIS FABULOUS TEAM FOR A START.
IN MY FAMILY'S LONG GAME FOR THE WORLD, THERE ARE *RULES* THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED. WE PANTHEON ARE THE *PLAYERS*, AND OUR CHOSEN FEW ARE THE *PERFORMERS*--
--AND YOU HAVE *ALL* PERFORMED YOUR PARTS IN *EXEMPLARY FASHION*, JUST AS I *KNEW* YOU WOULD.
SPEAKING OF BANALITY, SAVE THE *FLATTERY*, RAT KING.
I'D RATHER HEAR SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE SHOULD *NEXT* PROCEED IN THIS SO-CALLED GAME...

...BEFORE THE PRIZE WE'VE SO EXEMPLARILY BEEN 'PERFORMING' FOR IS DESTROYED BY THESE IMBECILIC UTROMS
THE ANSWERS ARE QUITE OBVIOUS, REALLY.
MY GOOD QUEEN, THE TIME HAS COME TO UNLEASH YOUR ENIGMATIC GANG OF FOUR. THEY'VE BEEN PINING FOR A FIGHT ON THEIR TERMS, SO WHY NOT GIVE THEM ONE?
AS FOR YOU, MY MAYOR-KNIGHT, WHETHER DELIBERATELY OR OTHERWISE, MY ROOK HAS PREPARED THE FIRST TWO COURSES OF A VERITABLE FEAST FOR YOU TO COMPLETE.
GENERAL KRANG HAS SERVED UP A TERRIFYING NEW PROBLEM FOLLOWED BY WIDESPREAD PUBLIC REACTION. NOW YOU MUST COOK UP THE FINAL COURSE.
OFFER A SOLUTION.
INDEED. SWEET DESSERT FOR THE WEAK AND FEARFUL MASSES.
IT'S AS YOU ELECT ARE WONT TO SAY...
...NEVER LET A GOOD CRISIS GO TO WASTE.

MUTANT TOWN.
"NO WAY WE'RE GONNA BE ABLE TO FIGHT AGAINST THAT..."
...UNLESS WE MAGICALLY SPROUT WINGS. AND I DON'T REMEMBER SAKI TEACHIN' US THAT TRICK.
HE DIDN'T.
CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS, THE BEST THING WE'VE GOT GOING FOR US RIGHT NOW IS THE E.P.F.

"LET'S JUST HOPE THEY CAN PULL A RABBIT OUT OF *THEIR* HAT."
CENTRAL! THIS IS *DIRECTOR BRAUNZE!*
WHERE ARE MY DAMN *AIR ASSETS?!*
"WE'RE GETTING *MASSACRED* OUT HERE!"
DIRECTOR BRAUNZE, THIS IS *MAJOR PADILLA.* AIR ASSETS *INBOUND,* SIR.
"HELP IS *ON* THE WAY."

WE'RE TAKING HEAVY FIRE! ALL SKY STRIKERS, TURN YOUR FOCUS TO THE ATTACKING ENEMY AIRCRAFT!
GROUND STRIKERS, WE'VE SOFTENED UP THEIR INFANTRY FORCES...
"...YOU ARE A GO TO ENGAGE!"
"HERE THEY COME!"
THIS IS WHAT WE WERE BUILT FOR, SOLDIERS!
"LET'S SHOW THESE DIRTY ALIENS WHAT THE E.D.F. IS ALL ABOUT!"

LOOKS LIKE THE E.P.F. FOUND YOUR RABBIT, DON.
YEP. GUESS WE DON'T NEED MAGIC WINGS AFTER ALL.
NOPE...
"...WE JUST NEED EACH OTHER!"

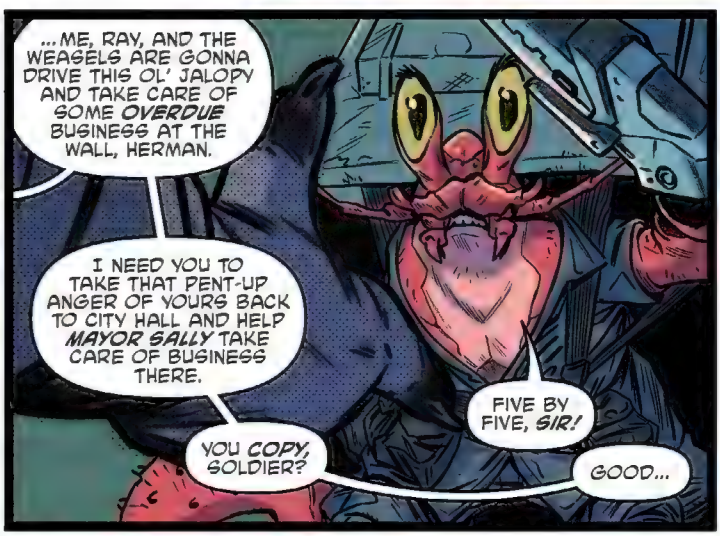
STAY CLOSE!
WATCH ONE ANOTHER'S SIXES!
"SIXES"?
YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE LEO, DONNIE!
I HOPE LEO'S OKAY!
I TOTALLY MISS HIM!
YEAH!
AND MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...

"...I'M KINDA MISSIN' THAT FLEA-BITER HOB AND HIS CREW RIGHT NOW, TOO!"
YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHERE THE HELL YOU'RE GOIN', RAY?
I'M SURE, OLD HOB. IT'S JUST A LITTLE FARTHER THIS WAY.
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A CLEAR PATH.
KILL THE MUTANTS!
CHK
CHK
CHK
CLEAR AS MUD.
SCARY MONSTERS!
AT EASE, SOLDIERS.

BRRRRRTBRRRRRT
I'VE GOT THIS!
SHOOM

WOW, HERMAN. RESPECT.
THANK YOU, SIR. GUESS I'VE BEEN HOLDING THAT *IN* FOR A WHILE.
GUESS SO.
THERE IT IS...
"...FOLLOW *ME.*"
SO YOU HAD THIS SECRET HIDEY-HOLE ALL THIS TIME AND NEVER *TOLD* ME, RAY?
HENCE THE *SECRET* PART, HOB.
I KNEW IF I EVER HAD A REASON TO RETURN HERE, IT WOULD BE FOR SOMETHING *BIG...*
...SOMETHING *IMPORTANT.*
AND THERE'S NO POINT FIGHTING A WAR IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO PLAN FOR *EVERY* CONTINGENCY.
WHICH IS A LONG, FANCY WAY OF SAYIN' WE GOT WHAT WE *NEED* NOW.

WE MIGHTA HAD OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT I ALWAYS KNEW DEEP DOWN I'D BE ABLE TO *COUNT* ON YOU WHEN IT MATTERED *MOST.*
OKAY...


...ME, RAY, AND THE WEASELS ARE GONNA DRIVE THIS OL' JALOPY AND TAKE CARE OF SOME *OVERDUE* BUSINESS AT THE WALL, HERMAN.
I NEED YOU TO TAKE THAT PENT-UP ANGER OF YOURS BACK TO CITY HALL AND HELP *MAYOR SALLY* TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS THERE.
YOU *COPY,* SOLDIER?
FIVE BY FIVE, *SIR!*
GOOD...

"...LET'S ALL GO MAKE SOME NOISE."
BWOOM
GUYS, I THINK WE'RE WINNING!
LESS CELEBRATIN', MORE KICKIN' UTROM BUTT, MIKE! DON'T STINKIN' JINX US!
RAPH'S RIGHT!
LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES!
FWAK
YEAH!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT OTHER SURPRISES RAT KING'S GOT PLANNED FOR US!
WHAT THE HELL?!
BRTTT BRTTT BRTTT
THE E.P.F.'S FIRING ON US NOW!

WAIT-- NOT THE E.P.F.
LOOK!
HEY, MUTANT TOWN! I HEARD YOU MISSED US!
WE'RE BACK!

NICE GOIN', MIKEY...
...YOU JINXED US!
WAIT. IS THAT--
THE GANG OF FOUR? YEP.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DONE PRETENDING TO BE NINJAS.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
...'CAUSE WE'RE THE REAL DEAL!
OKAY, BOYS...
...THESE DAMN MUTANTS HAVE SEEN US AT OUR WORST.
TIME TO SHOW 'EM...
...WHAT WE DO BEST!

YO, DONNIE! WHAT'S THAT OL' SAYIN' ABOUT COPYCATS?
BLAM
CHP
BRTTT
IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY?
GUESS THAT MAKES THESE SCRUBS ABOUT AS SINCERE AS THEY COME!
WHAK
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
FWAP
YEAH, WELL, I SINCERELY WISH THEY'D TOTALLY GO AWAY!
WHO BRINGS A GUN TO A NINJA FIGHT, DUDE?
WINNERS, MUTANT, THAT'S WHO!
NNF!
KRAK
WE PLAYED BY YOUR STUPID NINJA RULES LONG ENOUGH...
GAH!
BLAM
KLANG

"...YOUR TURN TO PLAY BY *OURS.*"

LOOK! IT'S THOSE *SPLINTER TURTLES* THAT ATTACKED STOCKMAN!

WAIT... IF THAT'S THEM, WHO'RE THEY *FIGHTING?*

WHO CARES? THOSE STUPID NINJA TURTLES AIN'T BEEN NOTHIN' BUT *TROUBLE* FOR THE REST OF US MUTANTS...

"...I SAY THEY *ALL* GOTTA GO!"

A LITTLE HOT LEAD COMIN' DOWNRANGE AND YOU AIN'T SO TOUGH *NOW,* HUH, TURTLE?

BLAM

CHNK

STORY'S A LOT DIFFERENT WHEN I BRING MY TRUSTY *KA-BAR* TO YOUR SWORD FIGHT, ISN'T IT?

AGH!

SHLP

STICK *THAT* UP YOUR SHELL, PURPLE BOY!

BLAM

CHKK

GUH!

TIME FOR YOU AMATEURS TO *FACE* A HARD FACT...

...YOUR STUPID KUNG FU TRICKS GOT *NOTHIN'* ON GOOD OL' MERCENARY MAYHEM.

YOU NINJAS HAD YOUR FUN WITH US, YEAH, BUT THAT *ENDS* HERE...

...NOW THAT WE TOOK THE *BULL* BY THE *HORNS.*

HEH.

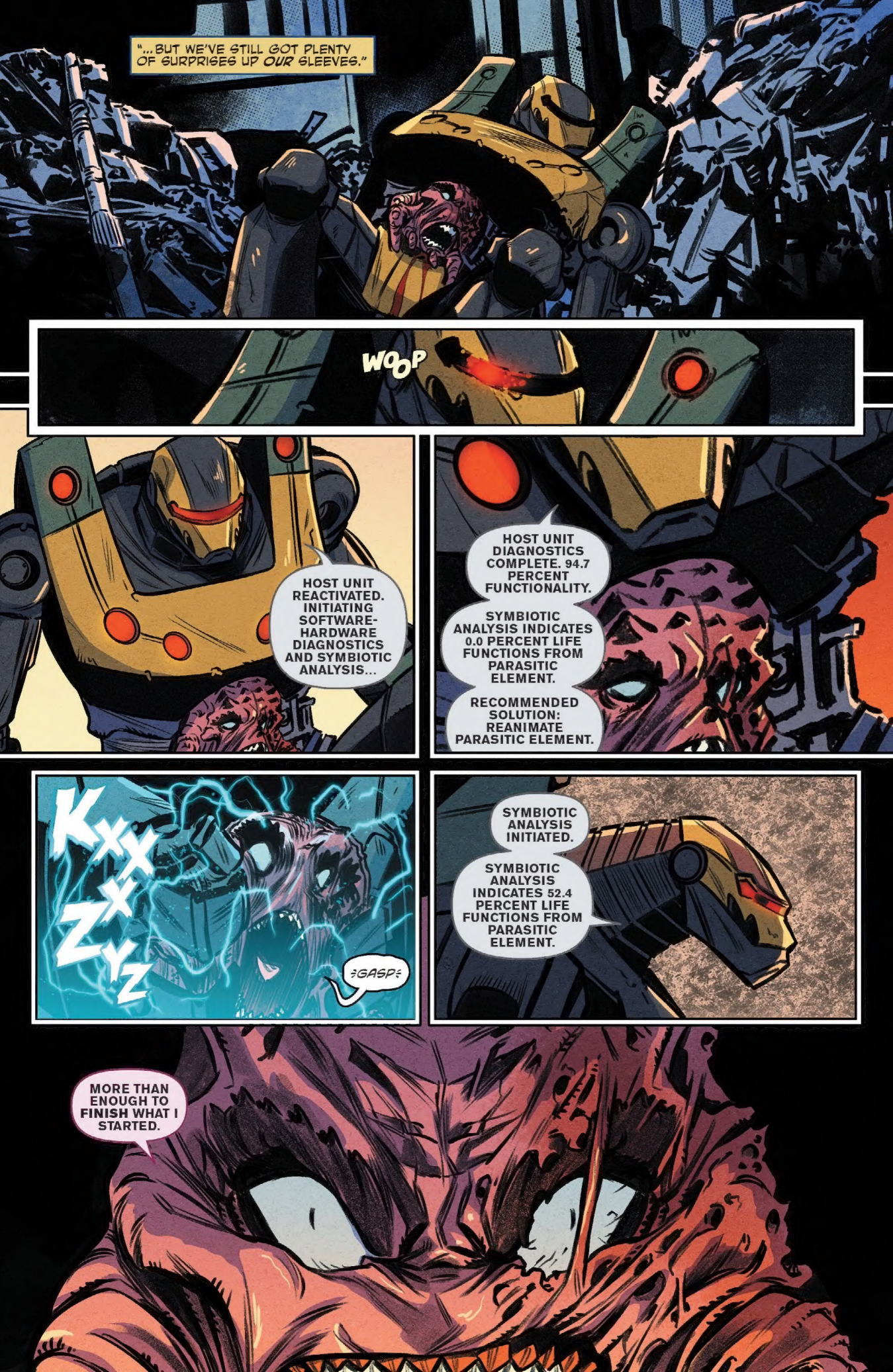
WHAT'S SO DAMN *FUNNY?*

DON'T HAVE A *COW,* DUDE...

"...BUT THE JOKE'S TOTALLY ON *YOU.*"

CRAP!
FZAK
NO MORE TURTLES!
GET 'EM!
WHAT THE--FLYING COW HEADS AND CRAZY CIVILIANS NOW, TOO?!
LET'S GO, GENTS!
WE MADE OUR POINT WITH THESE PUNK NINJAS LIKE THE BOSS WANTED...
"...WE DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!"
WELL...
...LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT JUST IN TIME.

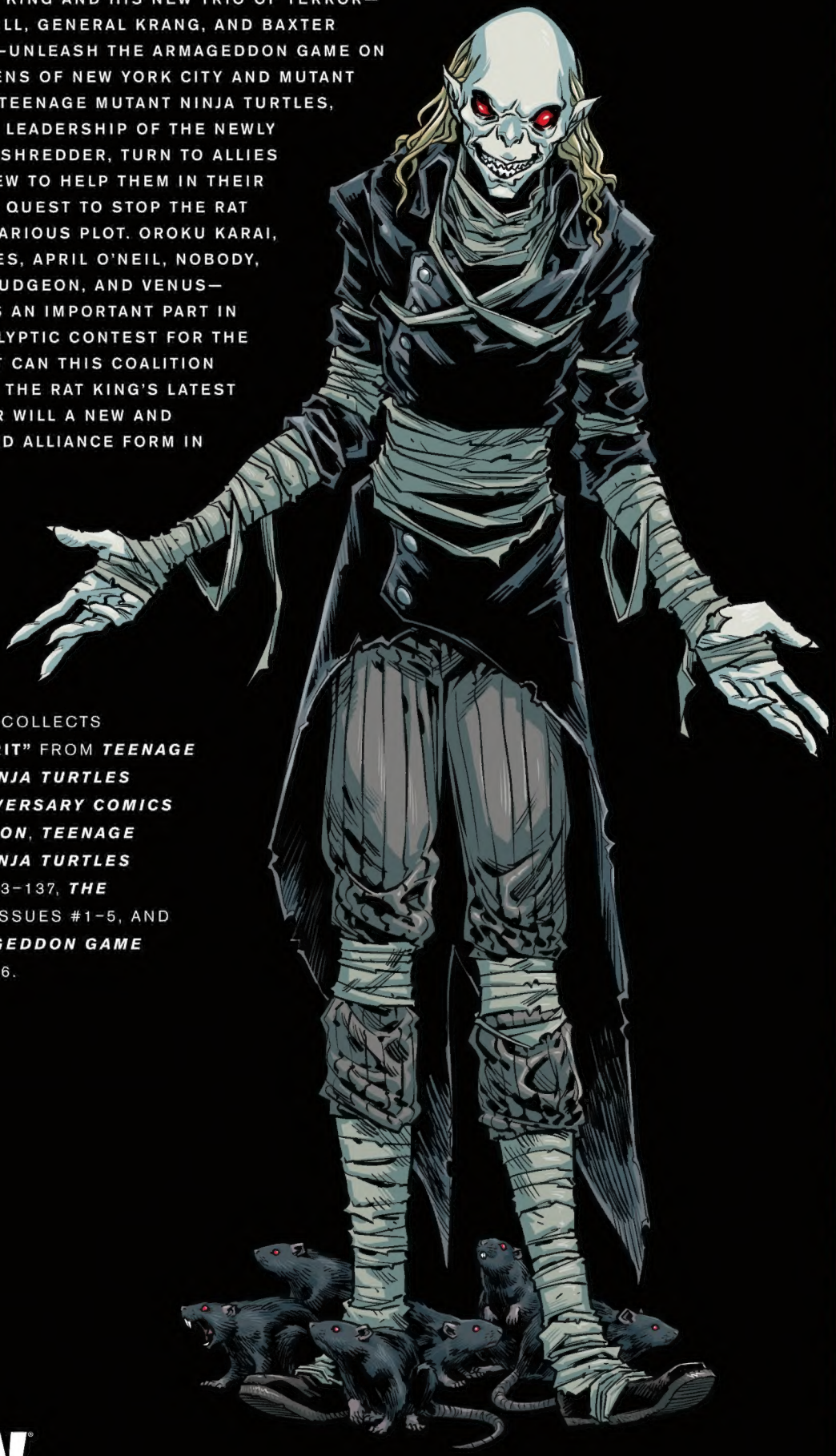
"WE'RE HERE..."
...AND MY SENSORS ARE PINGING HOT ACROSS THE BOARD.
THEY'RE EXPECTING US, MA'AM.
NO SURPRISE, TRIP.
COLONEL CH'RELL MIGHT BE INSANE, BUT HE'S NO FOOL.
AND HE'LL BE DEAD WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH HIM.
NO ARGUMENTS THERE, REGENTA, BUT WE CAN'T BE FOOLISH, EITHER. WE DIDN'T CROSS DIMENSIONS JUST TO DIE STUPIDLY ON SOME BACKWATER ISLAND.
WHAT'S THE PLAN, COMMANDER?
IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS, WE'RE GOING TO DO IT SMART, WHICH MEANS A TWO-PRONGED ASSAULT AND RESCUE.
SERI, GROTTO, EXEEN, AND I WILL TAKE THE FIGHT DIRECTLY TO CH'RELL, WHILE RAVE WILL LEAD TRIP AND ZEBULON TO FREE THE TRICERATONS BEING HELD PRISONER.
AND THE GOOD UTROMS LIKE MA'RIELL?
YES, THEM TOO.
WE MOVE QUICKLY AND QUIETLY, POSSE. THEY MIGHT KNOW WE'RE HERE...


"...BUT WE'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF SURPRISES UP *OUR* SLEEVES."
WOOP
HOST UNIT REACTIVATED. INITIATING SOFTWARE-HARDWARE DIAGNOSTICS AND SYMBIOTIC ANALYSIS...
HOST UNIT DIAGNOSTICS COMPLETE. 94.7 PERCENT FUNCTIONALITY.
SYMBIOTIC ANALYSIS INDICATES 0.0 PERCENT LIFE FUNCTIONS FROM PARASITIC ELEMENT.
RECOMMENDED SOLUTION: REANIMATE PARASITIC ELEMENT.
K-X-Z-Y-Z
=GASP=
SYMBIOTIC ANALYSIS INITIATED.
SYMBIOTIC ANALYSIS INDICATES 52.4 PERCENT LIFE FUNCTIONS FROM PARASITIC ELEMENT.
MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FINISH WHAT I STARTED.

art by ALEX SANCHEZ
colors by GIGI DUTREIX

PRESENTING THE COMPLETE TMNT STORIES IN RECOMMENDED READING ORDER!

AS THE RAT KING AND HIS NEW TRIO OF TERROR—MADAME NULL, GENERAL KRANG, AND BAXTER STOCKMAN—UNLEASH THE ARMAGEDDON GAME ON THE DENIZENS OF NEW YORK CITY AND MUTANT TOWN, THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NEWLY REFORMED SHREDDER, TURN TO ALLIES OLD AND NEW TO HELP THEM IN THEIR DESPERATE QUEST TO STOP THE RAT KING'S NEFARIOUS PLOT. OROKU KARAI, CASEY JONES, APRIL O'NEIL, NOBODY, ALOPEX, BLUDGEON, AND VENUS—EACH PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE APOCALYPTIC CONTEST FOR THE WORLD. BUT CAN THIS COALITION WITHSTAND THE RAT KING'S LATEST GAMBIT...OR WILL A NEW AND UNEXPECTED ALLIANCE FORM IN ITS WAKE?



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IDW